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STUDENTS RALLY IN SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN IRAN

DEVIN SANTIKARMA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Participants marched from the Chapel to Twilight Hall.

By XIAOYUAN JIAO
Contributing Writer

Approximately 35 Middlebury College and Middlebury Union High School students and community members gathered in the afternoon of Nov. 6 to rally in support and solidarity of women in Iran. The event began with a haircutting session outside of Chellis House, followed by a march from the Chapel to Twilight Hall and a "die-in," a form of protest in which participants simulate being dead.

The protest was in response to the deaths of Iranian women — Mahsa Jina Amini, Nika Shakarami and Sarena Esmailzadeh. Mahsa Amini died after she was detained by the Iranian Guidance Patrol — sometimes referred to as the morality police — for allegedly wearing her headscarf too loosely. Nika Shakarami and Sarena Esmailzadeh, who participated in subsequent protests, were allegedly tortured and killed by Iranian security forces, which the security forces repeatedly denied.

Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri '24 and Mei Dwyer-Frattalone '24, co-organizers of the haircutting event and the protest, explained the motivations behind the demonstration.

"The intentions of this rally are to both echo and amplify the voices of Iranian and Kurdish women fighting for their basic human rights in Iran right now," Afsar-Keshmiri and Dwyer-Frattalone wrote in an email to The Campus. "Making sure their voices and stories are heard is the most tangible thing we can do to help right now."

Haircutting as a form of protest and a way to mourn and grieve was derived from the female characters in the Persian Epic poem Shahnameh, an important text in Persian/Iranian literature, according to Afsar-Keshmiri.

"It is being employed by the Iranian and Kurdish women in Iran right now, and so we decided that we should also offer this to students attending the march as a way to show solidarity with these brave women," she said.

The Student Coalition for Human Rights club at the Middlebury Union High School was also involved, with some high schoolers attending both the haircutting and the rally.

High school senior Narges Anzali also emphasized the importance of hair as a form of protest.

"Hair is a personal thing, which is part of why the women in Iran are fighting so hard to have the right to choose whether or not to wear a hijab," she said.

Anzali's relatives still live in Iran, and she often finds herself feeling guilty that she is unable to do more.

"I felt a lot of relief at cutting my hair. It was something that I was very sure that I should do. It didn't make the cutting itself any less difficult. I'm still 17 and worried about how my hair looks," Anzali said. "But when I think of everything that my relatives living in Iran have had to deal with their entire lives, my own concerns seem kind of insignificant. I was grateful that I could do something tangible to express my support for the people of Iran."

Ari Graham-Gurland, also a senior from MUHS, participated in the haircutting protest.

"I wanted to support [Anzali] and all Iranian women fighting for their freedom and was grateful for this opportunity to march in solidarity with them," Graham-Gurland said. "I felt like cutting some of my hair was the least I could do to support my friend and the fight for women's rights. Cutting my own hair was a strange experience, but I also felt empowered that I was taking part in a movement that is echoing around the world."

Graham-Gurland connected the protest with sentiments expressed in Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."

"We cannot be free until our sisters and brothers across the world too can live in peace. Taking part in the protest yesterday was a small action to support the immense movement for women's freedom in Iran," Graham-Gurland said.

Fayezeh Haji Hassan '14, who was leading protests with similar themes in Pittsburgh, Pa., Zoomed in to support the haircutting event and to have a conversation with the participants.

"This is the feminist revolution of our time, and it comes from the Middle East, which nobody even thought about in the U.S.," Hassan said. "We don't want and don't need to be saved. We just need people to hear our voices… What we are doing is we are fighting the very tool that they are oppressing us with, and that tool is Islam. It doesn't mean Islam is bad, but they are using that tool to oppress us. So when we talk about these issues, we are not talking about Muslims or whatever people's religious beliefs are, but we are talking about the set of ideas the government is trying to push on us in the name of religion."

The haircutting event was followed by a rally at the Chapel and a march down to Twilight Hall to perform a die-in. Following the lead of Iman Behbehani '23, the protesters raised signs with the names of the deceased, chanting the slogan "woman, life, freedom," which has become a rallying cry for protesters in Iran. At Twilight, Afsar-Keshmiri, Behbehani and Dwyer-Frattalone each delivered a speech.

"This will not last forever. The dehumanization of women in Iran has lasted a long time and will end," Behbehani said in her speech. "We will win. Even if this fight fails, there will be another. And another. And again and again, until we are victorious. We fight here for them. Trust that they can feel the power we share here today."

She called for people to recognize their power in protest.

"Every time you stand up for yourself or others you stand up for people of the same identity. So stand up. Any identity you hold, queer, female, gender non-conforming, BIPOC. It is the same power you need to uphold," Behbahani said.

After the speeches, all protesters performed the 10-minute die-in.

"The die-in was intended to mourn, respect and honor the lives of Mahsa, Sarena, Nika and many others who have been killed as a result of participating in similar demonstrations fighting for their basic human rights," Afsar-Keshmiri said.

Anzali shared a poem at the end of die-in. Diana Herasim, a junior at MUHS from Ukraine, offered final remarks afterwards.

"I want Iranian women to feel that they are being supported as well and that Ukrainians are ready to stand up for them," Herasim said. "I would like people to know that every single action matters. It does help to keep fighting for what belongs to you when you know that there are many of those who stand up for you, that you are not alone. We should help Iranian women to have the right to express themselves, the rights that so undoubtedly must belong to all of us."

When asked about what she wants to say to people about the protest and the political turmoil in Iran, Anzali said, "It's hard to have conversations with people about this topic as well, because so often Americans view this kind of violence as a 'natural' state of the Middle East, not understanding how difficult it is sometimes to just go about your day. It's something that you have to live with and cope with as best you can."

The protest organizers encouraged students and others to sign a petition through the website womenlifefreedom.today to call for the Islamic Republic of Iran to be removed from the UN Commission on the Status of Women, an organization that serves women and girls worldwide.

Editor's Note: Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri '24 is an opinions editor for The Campus.

LOCAL

Vermont elects Welch, Balint while vote tallying continues for key national races

By TONY SJODIN
Managing Editor

Vermont elected Democrat Peter Welch to the Senate with 66.8% of the vote and Democrat Becca Balint to the House of Representatives with 60.1% of the vote on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8. Vermont also re-elected Republican Governor Phil Scott, defeating Democrat Brenda Siegel, with approximately 68.9% of the vote, as reported by the Vermont Secretary of State.

Rep. Peter Welch, defeating Republican Gerard Malloy, will fill Sen. Patrick Leahy's seat after he announced his retirement last November. State Sen. Balint, defeating Republican candidate Liam Madden and Libertarian candidate Ericka Redic, will fill the House seat Welch vacated to run for Senate, and become both the first woman elected to Congress from Vermont — ending Vermont's streak as the only state to have never sent a woman to Congress — and the state's first openly LGBTQ+ member of Congress.

Vermont voters also passed ballot measures Proposal 5 with approximately 72.4% voting in favor, which adds the right to reproductive autonomy to the state constitution, and Proposal 2 — with approximately 81.5% voting in favor, 10.4% voting against and 8.0% blank votes — which repeals outdated language currently in the state constitution that allows slavery and indentured servitude, according to the Vermont Secretary of State.

As of press time on Wednesday afternoon, key races in other states likely to determine control of both chambers of Congress were still undecided. At 4 p.m. on Nov. 9, The Associated Press had called 48 Senate seats and 177 House seats for Democrats and 48 Senate seats and 206 House seats for Republicans.

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SAO IMPLEMENTS "TIER SYSTEM" TO DETERMINE BUDGET AND RESOURCES FOR CLUB SPORTS

By RACHEL LU
Editor at Large

Leaders of Middlebury's club sports teams met with Director of Student Involvement & Leadership Development Valerie Nettleton to discuss the implementation of a tier system that will dictate the teams' budgets, competition and other allocated resources. For some club teams, their new tier categorization impacts the number of competitions they are allowed to participate in each semester or even the number of seasons they can have each year.

According to Nettleton, the tier system for club sports is a structure developed a number of years ago by the Student Activities Office (SAO). Each team is now assigned to one of three tiers that set guidelines for the teams.

In an email to The Campus, Nettleton said "Tier One" organizations are unique programs with a goal of competitive success and representing Middlebury on a regional level. They should also encourage participation, inclusion and healthy recreation.

According to Nettleton, "Tier Two" organizations are also unique programs that pursue some intercollegiate competition. However, competition is not their primary goal, and their focus is participation, health and recreation. "Tier Two organizations increase the diversity of programs and participation on campus," Nettleton said. "Competition is part of their team goals, but intrasquad play is equally important."

Club teams categorized in "Tier Three" are usually for sports that have existing varsity teams at the

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COURTESY OF COLIN BOURQUE

The Middlebury men's varsity boat cuts through choppy waters on Lake Dunmore.

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Captain's Corner: Grace Harlan '22.5, Field hockey
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"Insane Person for President" served no trespass order after yelling in college library

By MANDY BERGHELA
Contributing Writer

Middlebury Public Safety received a call about a disturbance occurring at the Davis Family Library on campus on Tuesday, Oct. 25 at 7:19 p.m.

"Public Safety arrived within two minutes, but because reports indicated that the individual had already left the building, Public Safety canvassed the area around the library first in an attempt to locate the individual. They later went into the library to meet with students and staff," Demitria Kirby, director of public safety, told The Campus.

Public Safety did not make contact with the individual when first reported, but they were able to work with the Middlebury Police Department (MPD) in identifying them.

Based on information provided by students who witnessed the incident and social media accounts containing photos and videos of the individual, the individual appears to be David Kinsley Ricklefs. Ricklefs frequently posts on his Instagram account, @insanepersonforpresident2026, in the third person about the "sleepiness" on campus regarding privilege and how students have turned their back on him. He has also been posting promotional material for his supposed presidential campaign with the nonexistent "Mushroom political party" in 2026, which is not a presidential election year.

Ricklefs made another visit to the Davis Family library two days later on Oct. 27, this time during the afternoon.

Public Safety, according to Kirby, received a report at 2:46 p.m. and again arrived within two minutes of the call, and Ricklefs exited the library immediately. They determined it was the same individual who had been reported two days prior and contacted the Middlebury Police Department.

Kirby said that Public Safety also issued Ricklefs a "No Trespass Order" which would make it a violation for him to be on campus. The Campus spoke with a representative for MPD, who confirmed that Ricklefs was arrested more than a week ago. MPD said they would not provide police records detailing the arrest until Ricklefs had been arraigned.

Many students were studying in Davis when the incident occurred.

Claire Miller '26 was by the technology help center when Ricklefs entered the library on Tuesday.

"I heard yelling in the lobby and went to see what was happening. The 'insane man' was standing on a bench in the lobby yelling about how he was running for president in 2026," Miller said. "I guess his suggestion was that we support him in his run for president."

Hannah Alberti '26 witnessed Ricklefs' Davis library appearance on Thursday afternoon, when he shouted to students similar statements about them being "sleepy."

"I walked in and I heard shouting, so I looked and everyone was looking at a guy who was dressed in a weed suit shouting while standing on the bench inside the Davis lobby," Alberti said.

Videos of the incident obtained by The Campus show a man in a marijuana leaf print tracksuit standing on one of the benches on the ground floor of Davis and yelling into a microphone.

Many students and some faculty were recording the man on their phones, according to Alberti.

On both days, some students found it troubling how long it took before anyone decided to reach out to Public Safety.

"Maybe what is slightly more concerning is how long he was there before action was taken. He was yelling on the bench for maybe 5 to 10 minutes before running out, before I saw anyone try and call Pub Safe," Alberti said.

Students like Miller were also concerned that Davis Library's accessibility to the public threatens student safety.

"I had never questioned the library being open to public access until after this incident," Miller said.

The Davis Family Library is open to the Middlebury community, as is the case with most college and university libraries across the country. A sign placed by the library doors after the Oct. 25 incident informed students that they would need their ID card to get into the library after 7 p.m.

"We encourage all faculty, staff, and students to be alert for suspicious or criminal activity. If an individual experiences or observes something that causes them to feel unsafe, we encourage them to notify Public Safety right away," Kirby said. "If there is an immediate safety concern or a crime has occurred, we encourage them to notify Middlebury Police."

"Even though Middlebury is small and rural Vermont feels pretty safe, this was a reminder that safety precautions are always a smart thing to have on any college campus," Miller said.

SAO IMPLEMENTS "TIER SYSTEM" TO DETERMINE BUDGET AND RESOURCES FOR CLUB SPORTS

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college. Tier three teams should prioritize on-campus recreation that provides increased opportunities for student participation, according to Nettleton.

"Their primary goals are inclusive participation, enjoying their sport and having fun. Intercollegiate competition in this tier is limited as participation is their main focus," Nettleton said.

SAO did not provide the specific categorization for each club sports team to The Campus, and Richard Connell, interim director of outdoor programs and club sports, declined to answer questions from The Campus before he could coordinate with colleagues.

There are 18 teams in the club sports category on Presence. Based on the tier descriptions provided by Nettleton and communication with team captains, The Campus determined that the Tier One teams are co-ed and women's water polo, women's and men's rugby, sailing, crew and equestrian. The Tier Two teams are men's and women's ultimate, quadball, cycling and badminton. The Tier Three teams are men's and women's club volleyball, club soccer, club tennis, club nordic and MiddRuns.

Teams are evaluated on several factors including risk mitigation, contact sports, coaching requirements, levels of commitment and member participation. Based on a general consideration of these goals and factors, teams are placed into one of three tiers by SAO.

According to Nettleton, this system allows the greatest support for access and participation that allows students to lead sports teams that are healthy, engaging, inclusive and fun to as many interested students as possible. Additionally, the system acts as a guideline of expectations for student leaders.

"It provides clarity for club sports leaders regarding expectations and management strategies, creates a scheduling structure to facilitate equitable access to facilities, helps support the growth we are seeing within club sports (both in regard to new members and new teams), and transparently shows how and why teams are supported in different ways within the same institution," Nettleton said.

The club crew and club water polo teams are Tier One sports and their seasons are unaffected by the tier system. However, teams placed in other tiers are feeling the impacts.

Niamh Carty '23, captain of the women's frisbee team, said the tier system will limit the amount of competitions the team is allowed to participate in during the season. The women's frisbee team is designated a Tier Two organization, which gives them five competitions per season with two seasons during the school year.

Last year, the women's frisbee team won the national championship. The team currently has an A team and a B team. For the A team to reach nationals again this year, it must play in two tournaments to qualify for sectionals, then play in the sectional and regional games.

"This could limit the A team on getting in more reps before higher competition and limit the B team, which we strive to be a developmental space that thrives on playing other teams as well," Carty said.

Otis Milliken '24, co-captain of Middlebury Club Soccer's men's team, shared Carty's concern that the system will limit the number of competitions the team is allowed to participate in. The men's club soccer team is a Tier Three organization, and they are allotted five games per season and one season in a school year.

The club soccer team currently has a first team and a second team, and the system would significantly limit the second team's participation. "It doesn't seem fair that only the good players get to play. That is not what our club is about," Milliken said.

Nettleton said the SAO expects some shifts within teams in anticipation for their competition seasons. In the long term, Nettleton said the system will benefit the club sports programs.

"Moving forward the biggest impact we expect is sustainable growth within Club Sports, increased participation, and a well-supported program that best serves [the] Middlebury College community as a whole," Nettleton said.

Carty and Milliken both expressed concern that the system will impact the amount of student participation in club sports. Currently, frisbee has approximately 50 players on its roster, and the club soccer team has around 100 players.

"When you are limited to a certain number of competitions, then you don't want to have a large team because people don't have a lot of opportunities to play," Carty said. "I think across the board, this will impact the amount of people involved in club sports."

Milliken told The Campus that club sports are invaluable communities for which the SAO should provide more support instead of putting systems in place that would limit their accessibility.

"The school has problems with mental health, connecting people, integrating communities and I feel like club sports is where a lot of that happens," Milliken said. "It feels like a place that I would invest resources in. We bring on so many freshmen who are best friends now."

Carty also stressed the personal importance of club sports for her.

"Club sports have meant everything to my college career," she said. "My Middlebury experience would be nothing without club sports."

MiddView, First@ Midd Leaders still awaiting compensation for work

College says to expect stipends on Nov. 18

By SABRINA SALAM
Staff Writer

When students applied to become orientation leaders, they did not know their work would be compensated this year. In the beginning of their training week, both MiddView and First@ Midd leaders were told that they would receive a stipend for their work, though the amount was not disclosed.

Nine weeks into the semester, orientation leaders have yet to receive their stipends. Student Activities Office employees informed leaders of delays and said in mid-October that they should expect payment just before Thanksgiving break. A Nov. 9 email from a staff member from the Office of the Dean of Students to a MiddView leader said that they are now expecting payments to be issued on Friday, Nov. 18.

Pay delays

Many leaders expressed frustration about the lack of communication regarding when the stipends would be issued.

Both orientation groups, First@ Midd and MiddView, used group chatting apps to communicate with college staff running orientation programs. When leaders were not being updated about the status of the stipend, they reached out to the orientation team through their respective groups.

On Sept. 25, a MiddView leader messaged the group's Slack channel asking when leaders should expect to get paid. Valerie Nettleton, director of student involvement and leadership development, replied that she had "just learned the processing of the payment has been delayed due to an unexpecting staffing delay but payment should be processed in the next few weeks."

On Oct. 17, another MiddView leader asked for an update on the payment. Nettleton replied that "The person processing these payments just returned from leave and is working with accounts payable to get these processed."

In a recent email to MiddView leaders, Erin Morrison, assistant director of first year experience for orientation, reassured students that they would receive their payments in November.

"You should expect your payment in November, just before your break," Morrison wrote. "I wish it could have been sooner (and I'm sure you do too!) but new systems have taken longer than expected to process."

First@Midd leaders have faced the same delay as MiddView leaders. They also remain uninformed about when they should expect their stipend and why there has been such a long delay. Although MiddView leaders were updated about when to expect their payment, First@Midd leaders told The Campus they had not received an email update about the status of their stipend.

Some MiddView leaders raised concerns about the limited communication they received about pay.

"MiddView should have been more transparent with how much we'd be getting paid and keep us more frequently updated on when we'd be paid," said Claudia Etrillard '25, who served as a MiddView leader this fall.

Harris McCartney '24.5, another MiddView leader, expressed concern that due to the multiple payment delays, the orientation team might have a hard time getting leaders to return — or even getting leaders to sign up in the first place.

"Orientation is a bedrock of the student experience here and if you're not able to get orientation leaders for it then that's going to be detrimental to that," McCartney said. "Lack of pay and being underpaid is not going to help them retain or get new leaders."

Compensation for orientation leaders

The slowdown in issuing stipends and lack of communication about delays was not the only frustration MiddView leaders expressed about the pay process. Last spring, a group of MiddView leaders advocated for compensation for orientation leaders, publishing an op-ed in The Campus.

"In order to foster the close-knit environments of MiddView groups many leaders are so passionate about, the program needs more leaders," the leaders wrote in the op-ed. "A stipend or salary is a fantastic incentive to encourage more leaders to apply to join the MiddView team."

MiddView leaders were not informed that they would be compensated until after their August orientation training period had begun, and they did not find out the amount they would be compensated until the last day of the training period. SAO told The Campus in September that this was because they had not wanted to announce the compensation plan until it was finalized.

Orientation leaders also expressed that the stipend was framed poorly.

According to Asa Stone '25, a MiddView leader, "It seemed like something that was almost like held over our heads." Stonethat if leaders broke the rules of training week, they would not be allowed to continue as a leader and their stipend would be taken away.

Rules included missing training sessions or using substances during the substance free orientation period.

"It was almost like an added pressure to be like, 'we're holding money over your heads so you really have to do a good job,'" Stone said.

MiddView orientation leaders were also expected to do more work than they had previously, which put more pressure on them, according to Stone.

"We're on call the whole week because students can reach out to us whenever, and we are meeting with students and we were doing a lot that we didn't know we would be doing during the week of MiddView," Stone said.

Previously, MiddView leaders only spent a few days with their orientation groups, leading them on three-day trips that ranged from backpacking trips to community service work.

In September, when The Campus first reported on the introduction of the stipends, leaders expressed that, while they were grateful the college was taking steps to compensate orientation leaders, it was demoralizing that they were paid $300 for weeks of work. Students told The Campus that, broken down by total hours worked, the stipend amounted to less than four dollars an hour.

"There is a big disparity between what we're getting paid and what we should be getting paid," McCartney said.

Even with delays and continued frustrations regarding the stipends, some leaders said they would serve as orientation leaders again. Daniel Ramírez '24 served as a First@Midd leader this fall. While waiting for the stipend has been frustrating, Ramírez said leading orientation was a good experience.

"We care about these students," Ramírez said. "We see a lot of ourselves in them. So all the leaders came with good vibes, which is why I would do it again."

Some student organizations required to complete new anti-hazing training course

By BEN WAGNER
Staff Writer

The Student Activities Office is located in McCullough Student Center.

Tom Nevins/The Middlebury Campus

The Student Activities Office (SAO) announced in mid-October that club sports, a cappella groups and social houses were required to complete a new online anti-hazing training in.

Unlike other mandatory Vector Solutions trainings that were only required for organization leaders, the hazing training had to be completed by 80% of an organization's members, leaving many organizations scrambling to get enough members to complete the new training by the Oct. 26 deadline. If organizations did not complete the training by the deadline, they risked losing access to their funding and being asked to suspend club activities.

The Student Government Association Finance Committee (SGAFC), which has seen a reduction in its role in managing club sports' budgets, was not involved in the hazing training and funding decision-making process.

"I haven't heard of us having any role in the withholding of funds. I assume that that was a decision made by higher ups in SAO or other adult administrators. It's not something we've talked about," said Cole Siefer '25, deputy director of the SGAFC.

SAO sent out links to the training to organization members' personal emails on Oct. 13, but initial communication — including the fact that 80% of organization membership had to complete the Vector Solutions course — was sent only to organizations' email addresses.

Elizabeth Austin '24, one of the captains of the women's club rugby team, said student leaders received a reminder email 13 days prior to the deadline from SAO, but the notice was sent to the organization rather than personal emails.

Austin, who does not often check the rugby email, did not find out about the requirement until a meeting with the SAO and other student leaders six days before the deadline.

"Every president in that club sports meeting looked completely shocked — so I don't think it was on anyone's radar until that meeting," Austin said in an email to The Campus.

Sachin Patel '24, one of the captains of the men's club crew team, which completed the training within the deadline, said he believed that teams and groups were given adequate time to complete the training, which took just 25 minutes.

Austin's team also met the deadline, after persistent reminders to the team.

"We did meet the deadline, but that was because I (as president) essentially dropped everything and made it my priority to get my entire team to do it ASAP," Austin said.

Both Patel and Austin indicated that they had no knowledge of a history of hazing in their programs, but acknowledged the importance of training.

"I absolutely think these trainings are important for any club, including crew," said Patel, who also emphasized their importance in creating a welcoming and inclusive team culture.

Some organizations, such as women's rugby, also noted that they do their own team culture work separate from what is mandated by SAO.

Austin, while noting the training course's importance, was frustrated with the specific process the SAO used.

"I personally feel like this process was last-minute, the 80% rule was unnecessarily stressful and the content was not applicable to our team," Austin wrote.

Everyone on an organization's Presence roster was sent a link to the training course and counted into the 80% of members needed to meet the requirement. But Presence allows students to add themselves to an organization's roster by clicking the "join" option — regardless of whether they actually attend the practices or meetings for that organization — though they can be removed by organization administrators.

"I think all teams should be required to do it [the training course], but with extra emphasis on the men's teams specifically because, from hearing from people and my own experience, issues are mostly with men's teams," said Nima Khodakah '25, a member of the men's crew team.

While historical studies have backed Khodakah's theory, more recent research suggests a closer yet still unequal, split between men's and women's programs.

The training was created by a third party, Vector Solutions. The course explicitly stated that hazing did not only occur in Greek life, but cited several Greek-life based examples.

"I think there would be value in having Middlebury-specific training because I think a lot of things are culture specific. Each school has a different mentality," Khodakah said.

Overall, Khodakah said, the definitions of hazing weren't the most helpful part of the course. Instead, the training was useful on a practical level.

"The important part was how to deal with it and help people out," Khodakah said.

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Effects of CSAC wage raise ripple through agency

By SAM LIPIN
Sports Editor

Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) raised its pay rate this past May in an attempt to recruit and retain a greater number of employees to the organization. In April, they spent about $1.7 million to raise the wages, funded mostly by an 8% increase in Medicaid rates passed by the Vermont state legislature. CSAC was especially struggling with employment within the developmental services, the emergency response team and the psychiatry department.

CSAC, in partnership with the college, also added a designated psychiatrist who sees Middlebury students once a week.

"We're holding our own," Executive Director of CSAC Rachel Lee Cummings said. "We've been working to become a trauma-healing organization and really taking a look at the systems that support healthy workplaces, trying to grow our inclusion and decision making, increase our communication and really pay attention to the right things that keeps our staff healthy and balanced and wanting to stay and be engaged and active within CSAC."

Cummings said that their vacancy rate has decreased from 15% to 10% since the raised pay rate.

The most notable additions have occurred on the emergency response team, which is now almost fully staffed by a combination of new hires and existing employees picking up per diem shifts. Prior to the raised pay rate, she said, the 24/7 emergency team was staffed by only two employees.

In addition, they have hired more Adult Stabilization Program (ASP) case managers on their mental health side — a position which formerly had an almost 100% vacancy rate — which invites clients to engage in a "strengths-based and solution-focused program that supports clients in solving problems and developing realistic, achievable goals," according to the CSAC website.

Cummings also noted that fewer employees have left the agency in this past quarter than the previous quarter prior to the pay increase. She claims that while people still leave the agency for other reasons, insufficient pay is no longer one of those reasons.

Cummings cited a plethora of other reasons for why people leave "voluntarily and involuntarily," including a lack of childcare options in Addison County, a state-wide housing crisis, the stress of the job or a desire for a career change. She said that on multiple occasions in the past few months, potential hires had to turn down the job on account of not being able to find housing in Addison County or commit to a full-time job with young children at home and inconsistent childcare options nearby.

They have also continued to struggle hiring staff in psychiatry, school-based services and developmental services. Cummings pointed out that there is a highly competitive employment landscape for those who have experience in mental health and behavioral health services.

"There's just not enough people in the field to cover all of the open positions, both in Addison County and across the state," Cummings said. "Regardless of the setting, whether it's primary care or community mental health, there's just not enough people. We really need to take a look at physician satisfaction and find ways to recruit more students into that field."

Moreover, Covid-19 has continued to cause problems for CSAC's already thinly-stretched workforce.

At their residential home last month, a Covid-19 outbreak spread to all seven residential home assistants, in turn spreading to the rest of the staff and all of the residents. The staff who were all sick with Covid-19 continued to come into work because CSAC had no other options.

"They just had to keep helping people — making meals, keeping people safe, getting activities going — making sure that our residence was still running," Cummings said. "Covid-19 has just been really, really stressful."

Furthermore, Cummings has noticed an ongoing upward trend in need and in the intensity of service clients are requiring since the pandemic, specifically in their Youth and Family department where they have seen a 68% increase in uptake.

CORRINE LOWMAN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
CSAC has raised its pay rate in order to increase the number of employees in the organization.

"It makes sense that people are struggling," Cummings said. "This has been a pretty intense and awful couple of years. It's really highlighted the fragility of our support systems and our social safety nets, and we're feeling it."

Cummings rejects the idea that this is a result of a mental health crisis, but rather a "political crisis." In the 2022 midterm election, Cummings is paying special attention to the legislature, which controls the allotment of Medicaid that currently makes up 80% of their funding.

"We are looking for legislators who understand the scope of how much people are struggling and are willing to put money behind words and promises to help support well communities," Cumming said, stressing the need for affordable housing, accessible childcare and strong social safety nets.

In addition to the raised pay rate, CSAC has implemented a new branch of their psychiatry department fully devoted to responding to the needs of Middlebury College students. In partnership with Middlebury College, Dr. Brittany F. Crowley M.D., who primarily serves in CSAC's child psychiatry department, has been hired by the college to offer her services once a week for students seeking psychiatric care.

"By having Dr. Crowley on site physically and collaboratively with Middlebury's medical and mental health staff, we will be able to support students better, quicker and more often," Cummings said. "We're really impressed with the partnership and how creative and supportive the college has been in thinking how to better support students."

Cummings noted that there are only 30 child psychiatrists in the state, and as a result, service can be incredibly expensive. Middlebury's support thus allows CSAC to allocate their resources and services elsewhere while providing Middlebury students with more accessible psychiatric care.

In the upcoming months, CSAC is preparing to kickstart a couple of new programs intended to increase client accessibility, including a same-day access service for immediate support and a mental health urgent care initiative, modeled off the principles of the Living Room model, thanks to an earmark provided by Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Both programs are intended to provide other immediate options to the emergency team if their problems are less severe and more suitable to non-emergency services.

"We're trying to find ways across the state to broaden the continuity of crisis services and reduce the pressures of people heading to the emergency department to get immediate care," Cummings said.

Cummings said that CSAC will continue to realize the effects of the wage increase on their ability to hire and retain employees and that statewide trends will continue to affect their ability to do so.

"We feel like we've made some movement regarding pay," Cummings said. "But we still need to take a look at physician satisfaction, and find ways to recruit more students into that field."

New Women's clothing store, Middleton, opens in Middlebury

By JULIA PEPPER
Local Editor

A new women's clothing store has recently opened in downtown Middlebury. Middleton, located at 66 Main Street, is co-owned by Elissa Kestner, owner and manager of Monelle Vermont — two boutique stores in Burlington and Shelburne — and Lisa Phelps, owner of Middlebury salon and spa Parlour.

Kestner and Phelps were awarded a $20,000 KickStart grant through the Better Middlebury Partnership this past spring, which helped them open the store. The store's website describes Middleton as "a clothing and lifestyle boutique for the smart and stylish woman." It sells a range of clothing and accessories, jewelry, stickers, cards and more.

Kestner, who grew up in the suburbs of Boston, has family ties to both Vermont and Middlebury College. She attended Bates College, and worked at Merrill Lynch before the 2008 market crash. Following the crash, she moved to Vermont for a change of pace. She started working in retail at Monelle and eventually bought the store in 2013.

In a phone interview with The Campus, Kestner spoke positively about the business Middleton has received since opening. "It has been really great getting to know Middlebury," she said. "It's been a really amazing and consistent reception from both the town and from the college students and the parents."

Kestner said she hopes Middleton can provide an oasis for college students wanting to get off campus. She compared the accessibility of getting off campus at Middlebury with her experience at Bates, where there was no local town, and the closest city was Portland, Maine.

"To be able to get off campus and have something to do and something to see, and almost like a little dose of home... I think has been a draw [for students]. [At Bates] We didn't have any way to support the local community, or... get off campus for a few minutes, so I hope that this is something the Middlebury students will love," Kestner said.

COURTESY OF ALYSSA PROVOST
Middleton opened its doors at 66 Main Street in Middlebury.

Several college students also work at Middleton, something with which Kestner is familiar. "Having had Monelle Burlington for over 10 years, I have had a lot of college students over the years as my employees," Kestner said. "I love having college students in, and I respect every college student who is looking to pick up a part time job on top of their studies... I understand you're in school for your studies and that is the main focus, but I can also tell that employees really love having a little something to do that gives them more structure."

Kestner also said she aims to show students a wider range of possible future uses for their degrees. As an Economics major in college, Kestner said she was "laser focused" on going into finance, and never really aware of what other business options might be. "All businesses have the same structures and workings, and it's about how you give your creative spin on it," she said. "I was really excited about giving students an opportunity to see a store open from scratch."

Alyssa Provost, the manager of Middleton, is one such student. Provost attends a university other than Middlebury, and has taken the semester off to learn about entrepreneurship through her work at Middleton.

"A typical day is centered around helping customers in any way they need," Provost wrote in an email to The Campus. "The customer is first priority. If we are not busy [with customers], there is plenty of cleaning and orders to unpack, as well as putting some outfits together to market the items."

She added that she has learned a great deal from her experience in the store, particularly in terms of her communication skills, through everyday interactions with customers.

"I think the store has become a great staple for the town and college. We carry some essential items that are hard to get without driving to Burlington... I hope the store provides a more convenient shopping location that takes away some of the difficulties of being in a remote town and online shopping," Provost added.

According to Kestner, the process of buying inventory for the store is largely influenced by what the customers want. "I don't have a background in fashion or merchandising," she said, "So what I end up buying is what I personally like, and then we really try to read the customers.

Kestner added that Phelps' perspective as a five-plus year Middlebury resident and shop owner has been helpful in determining what customers in town and at the college want.

Middleton buys inventory year round, typically two seasons ahead. At the same time, they often reserve some of their buying power for immediate use, so they can see what people are looking for and bring items in on demand. The store is currently working with about 25 brands, though that number may fluctuate over time.

In a follow-up email to The Campus, Kestner elaborated on the thought process behind selecting merchandise. "We carry an array of price points to cater a variety of demographics and needs. We have great pride in the quality and designs of our high end products, with the understanding that some items are investment pieces or for every day practical use," she wrote.

This range of items includes pieces from the Burlington-based brand Commando, which makes leggings, bodysuits and pants out of luxury-technical fabrics meant to be long lasting and flattering. Middleton also carries brands such as Grade & Gather, which makes sweaters, and Just Black Denim, which is made in the U.S. and includes a range of denim options.

At Middleton, the Commando trousers are sold for $278, while the Grade & Gather sweaters range from $40–$70 and the Just Black Denim $90–$120.

"The internet has so many options at all price points, it can be difficult as a consumer to navigate quality and fit," Kestner wrote. "Our jobs as the buyer are to curate a collection that works for our customers."

Looking to the future, Kestner said she hopes to sell customized Middlebury gear. "I love finding brands that I have worked with and really like, and asking them to specifically customize for me," she said. She has worked on some custom gear previously at Monelle Vermont.

Kestner added that she also hopes to have events at Middleton that engage the college students and the town, such as hosting a jewelry making workshop.

"I've been very pleasantly surprised by what the town of Middlebury has to offer, and what we're getting from that too," Kestner said.

Middleton is open from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Sunday to Tuesday and 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday.

Plans for a new bike "pump track" in Middlebury

By EMILY HOGAN
Local Editor

A new bike pump track is in the works to be sited at the Middlebury Recreation Park, located off Route 7 just south of the Middlebury town center.

Bike "pump tracks" are dirt loops consisting of 'rollers' and 'berms,' or small bumps in the track and banked turns, which allow a biker to travel across without pedaling. These tracks allow for other recreational options for bikers in addition to traditional bike trails.

The pump track initiative is primarily led by Erik Remsen, who is a member of the Addison County Bike Club (ACBC), a local mountain biking club, and the Community Partnership Council, a group associated with the Addison County School District (ACSD). According to ACSD's website, "[The Council's mission] is to develop and strengthen relationships within our communities to create strong partnerships that support student success."

The Council has served as a liaison between the school district and the community. Especially amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Remsen said in a phone interview with The Campus, "that group has been really focused on ... what we can do to both kind of bring a little joy into the schools".

The "pump track" project is a product of the work and ideas of the ACBC and the Community Partnership Council, and has been an ongoing idea for several years. A member of the biking community in Middlebury, Remsen opted to take on this project.

"This is my first time doing something like this, so it's been quite the learning experience for me," he said.

COURTESY OF ERIK REMSEN

The new Middlebury Pump Track would be sited at Middlebury Recreation Park.

Since the idea first formed, support has been consistent and ongoing from the Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department as well as the ACBC. The committee has worked closely with ACBC to attain funding and help with moving along the project. This partnership will continue in constructing and maintaining the track.

When the idea for a Middlebury pump track was first introduced, the primary barrier to construction was finding a site for the track. Now that a school district council has undertaken the project, the track can be sited at Middlebury Recreation Park, since the ACSD owns the park, Remsen said.

The pump track will serve many purposes once completed, including community and educational components. The track will allow students and teachers at Mary Hogan Elementary School to conduct their spring biking unit there. The track will also be free and accessible to the public at all times of day, offering another recreational opportunity for the Middlebury community.

"We saw during the pandemic the need for these free, accessible, local recreation opportunities and just having a multitude of them," Remsen said.

The committee has worked with the ACBC to secure a Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA) Naming Grant. As a member of VMBA, the club was able to apply for a grant funded through Cabot Cheese, which owns a cheese manufacturing plant on Exchange Street in Middlebury. Given this community presence, Cabot Cheese created a grant in support of biking projects in Middlebury, explained George Lawrence, president of the ACBC. The pump track committee and the Bike Club layed out a proposal to Cabot Cheese emphasizing the importance of a pump track in Middlebury, and ultimately secured the $5,000 grant for the track.

"Middlebury tends to have a little bit trickier trails. We don't have a lot of beginner trails, unfortunately," Lawrence said. Thus, an accessible and beginner-friendly pump track would play an important role in the local biking community.

Support for the project is wide-ranging in the Middlebury community. When the pump track committee approached the Town Selectboard, support from the board was unanimous. In addition to support from the Bike Club and the ACSD, Remsen mentioned that Karen Duguay, executive director of the Better Middlebury Partnership, also voiced support. The project has seen little resistance, but what opposition it has faced from the community primarily concerned the location as preventing the park from being used in a different way.

The ACSD Community Partnership Council undertook a similar project in the winter of 2021. The Council worked in conjunction with the town of Middlebury to create an outdoor ice rink on the recreation fields near Mary Hogan Elementary School.

Furthermore, Remsen and others involved in the pump track project are also working on the ongoing project to build a skate park in Middlebury. Given that building a skate park requires a lot more resources than a dirt pump track, the pump track project is farther along than the skate park project. "These aren't competitive projects, these are cooperative," Remsen said. Both work to provide accessible recreational opportunities and facilities for people of all ages.

Work on the pump track project for Remsen and Lawrence currently involves getting all the necessary permits for building the pump track at the Middlebury Recreation Park. This includes consulting both the town of Middlebury and the state of Vermont to ensure there are no outstanding permits needed. "The current challenge at the moment is making sure we've gone through the right process to get all those [permits], and have all the ones we need in order to be able to build next summer," Remsen explained.

Lawrence noted that currently, the pump track committee is working at negotiating the necessity of a stormwater permit. "That hinges on whether or not a dirt track is defined as being an impermeable surface or not," he said.

After securing the permits, Remsen, Lawrence and others will need to fundraise over the winter. Some funding has already been secured through the VMBA Naming Grant. In addition to this grant money, the group hopes to crowdsource funding. Once the money is secured, the group is free to work with the design builder to finalize the design of the pump track and figure out where the project fits into the town's summer 2023 building schedule. Lawrence noted that, as part of its grant, Cabot Cheese intends to involve their employees through local volunteering.

"So we're going to hold a volunteer day... and so we're hoping that Cabot folks will come out and join us as well as maybe members of the public and the Addison County Bike Club folks," Lawrence said. The construction of the dirt pump track will involve labor-intensive hand work to shape and grade the track for the final design.

Once constructed, the pump track will serve an important recreational use. The pump track would support bikers from beginner skill-level to experts, Lawrence said. "It's something that everyone can enjoy and it's also something that would be really good to help beginners build skills because that's important without having to go out and commit," he said.

Pandemic leads community newspapers to restructure

By CHARLIE FISCH
Contributing Writer

Some Vermont newspapers have been forced to make changes due to the pandemic and shifts in readership.

The Waterbury Reader and The Vermont Cynic stopped printing in September due to financial strain and decreased interest in print versions. Another local newspaper, The Addison Independent, has seen recent changes in its amount of digital readership and sources of profit.

The Waterbury Reader was a free, weekly newspaper printed in collaboration by Waterbury Roundabout online news and Barre-Montpelier Times Argus. It served the towns of Waterbury, Duxbury and Moretown in Washington County and Bolton in Chittenden County. Stories will now only be published on the news site WaterburyRoundabout.org following the termination of The Reader's print deal.

The Vermont Cynic, the University of Vermont's student-run newspaper, has been in print since 1883. The paper announced its transition to a fully digital format at the beginning of September.

The Addison Independent remains in print and releases a weekly issue on Thursdays.

While the pandemic accelerated the closure of some newspapers, the decline of local news began well before March 2020. The New York Times published an article in 2019, which reported that one in five U.S. newspapers had closed since the early 2000s. In regards to Vermont-based news sources, the article said "The Burlington Free Press has not closed, but local issue coverage has been reduced to the point of uselessness." In March 2022, The Burlington Free Press reduced its print frequency, replacing print newspapers on Saturdays with a digital version.

In March 2020, the Stowe-based Waterbury Record ceased publication. Unlike The Waterbury Reader, The Record did not transition to an online-only version, but rather closed altogether.

According to a December 2020 Boston Globe article, Montpelier-based VTDigger and Burlington-based Seven Days have been able to effectively adapt to shifting readership in the state. VTDigger publishes online-only news daily, while Seven Days produces both a weekly print newspaper and exclusively online stories daily. VTDigger averages 700,000 monthly online readers, while Seven Days has a weekly print readership of about 108,000 and weekly digital readership of 104,200. "The success of VTDigger and Seven Days is a glimmer of good news for local journalism, which has taken a well-documented beating over the past 15 years," the Globe article reads.

The Waterbury Reader cited a decreased interest in its print publication as a cause of financial strain, leading to its decision to stop the print version. According to a Seven Days article, The Reader was losing close to $900 per week by continuing its print publication. The paper also pointed to its lack of advertising support as impacting its inability to sustain printing and delivery. The Reader's Executive Editor, Steve Pappas, issued a written statement, which said that transitioning back to printing would require "a seismic shift in revenue generation."

Despite the decision to transition to a digital format, the future of The Waterbury Reader remains uncertain. While the print version put a financial burden on the organization, it also generated some income.

UVM's Vermont Cynic was also forced to make a similar decision to The Reader. On Sept. 6, Cynic Editor in Chief Ella Ruehsen and Managing Editor Eric Schaf released a statement announcing the end of the Cynic's print publication and its transition to a fully digital paper.

The Cynic had halted printing several times throughout the pandemic to account for reading habits, such as from spring to fall 2020 and again from late fall 2020 to spring 2022. The paper finally ceased printing permanently in fall 2022. Despite The Cynic's attempts to revitalize its print publication, the pandemic pushed most readers to view their content online.

In the statement, Ruehsen and Schaf noted the sharp decline in popularity of print newspapers. "Issues were not flying off the shelves this past spring. On the contrary, armfuls of copies of our paper wound up in the recycling bin each week," they wrote.

The Cynic's statement also noted that the website typically received two times more page views than printed copies did when they were in circulation. At peak performance, the website received 16 times more views than its printed publications.

Other local newspapers, such as the Middlebury-based Addison Independent, saw similar trends in digital readership due to the pandemic. When the college shut down, business for the Addy Indy decreased dramatically. Executive Editor and Publisher Angelo Lynn told The Campus that the lack of college students, closed stores and fear of contracting the virus through touch caused paper sales to plummet, costing the paper $4,500 a week.

In response, the paper then decreased its print publication from twice a week to once a week. However, community newsletters increased to four times a week in order to keep the community updated about the virus.

Almost three years after the onset of the pandemic, the Addy Indy has about 17,000 readers and a total of about 7,000 subscribers. Paper subscriptions dipped because of store closures and the transition from twice-weekly to once-weekly papers, while online subscriptions increased, Lynn said. It is currently receiving more subscriptions per issue than in previous years.

The paper now faces increased printing costs due to changes in demands from paper manufacturers and heightened labor costs, both of which have forced it to rely on community donations. The Addy Indy previously relied on advertisements for 80% of its income and subscriptions for 20%. It will now rely on advertisements, subscriptions, and community donations in equal proportions.

"The future of community newspapers is really going to be dependent on how much the community rises up to support them," Lynn said.

Lynn added that the Addy Indy never considered moving to a digital-only format. "I believe in a strong print product. It gets everybody on the same page," he said.

"[Online, readers are] very apt to miss important community stories just because it's scattered out there. It's just not all in one place. It's very difficult for your community to be in sync with each other if they're not reading the same sets of information," Lynn said.

Despite this perspective, Lynn said he is not advocating for community newspapers to diminish their online presence. Online media helps get news out to more people in the community and allow the community to approach its challenges with the same information.

While print media might be the best way to keep communities on the same page, the existence of local newspapers in any form is vital. "A community newspaper done well is the glue that holds the community together," Lynn said.

Q&A with Monique Bonner, owner of Addison West

By MAGGIE REYNOLDS
Senior Local Editor

Monique "Mo" Bonner '92 is the owner of Addison West — a home and lifestyle store on Main Street in downtown Middlebury. The Campus spoke with Mo last week about Addison West, the store's new location in Waitsfield and her experience at Middlebury.

Maggie Reynolds: What is the story of Addison West's founding?

Mo Bonner: I've wanted to start my own business for the better part of 30-plus years. When I was a Middlebury student, I worked at an awesome deli gourmet food store in [town] and seriously thought about buying that business when it went up for sale shortly after I graduated. I've always had a passion for retail but took a very different career path for 20 years. I worked as a technology marketing executive, and I loved it, and then Covid-19 happened — I had something of a midlife Covid-19 catharsis.

I thought, "I've always wanted to do this; I've always wanted to start a business." So, I decided that I was going to launch, on my 50th birthday, an interior design blog and website. About two weeks after that was launched [in] October 2020, some friends from town who were moving their business had a storefront on Main Street, and they asked if I might want to use it for a pop-up store. So we launched that pop-up where the store is now in late November of 2020.

MR: Describe your merchandise? Where do you get it from?

MB: We started off leaning heavily towards antiques and vintage goods because I have been collecting them for the purposes of starting a business for the better part of 10 years: vintage birch bark canoes, vintage pennants, vintage glassware, vintage artwork. Since then, the business has expanded significantly: home furnishings, rugs and lighting, along with a heavy dose of Vermont-made products.

We're very thoughtful about fair trade and ethical practices and sustainability, but we do look to some of our manufacturers who bring in things from overseas and other parts of the United States.

COURTESY OF ELISABETH WALLER
Mo Bonner, owner of Addison West, outside the Middlebury location.

MR: What is your main customer base?

MB: [Our] target customer is probably a woman who is in her mid-30s to mid-40s. [She] is looking to invest in things for a home, whether that is furniture that's a step up from Ikea, or home decor or goods that are a little bit more contemporary.

MR: Can you tell me about the new Waitsfield store?

MB: Originally, we were looking to expand in Middlebury, and we looked at a number of locations. We got very close a couple of times, but for a variety of reasons, those opportunities fell through.

The Waitsfield location was a bit serendipitous — my husband and I were over there for our wedding anniversary in December of 2021 and drove by a building that had housed a very successful kitchen and pantry-type home store, which had closed during Covid-19. I saw that it was for sale, and it was like a lightning bolt struck.

It's been really good for us to diversify our revenue base from the Middlebury area. Both stores happen to be in Vermont, but, because one is in a college town, and one is in a ski resort, they're actually quite complementary in ways that we didn't really plan for, but we feel very lucky that we have.

MR: Were you a part of the Better Middlebury Partnership Kick Start Grant?

MB: Yes. We applied for that grant and were granted one of [the Kick Start grants] to expand in Middlebury, but we were not able to take advantage of that when we decided to expand outside of Middlebury.

MR: What was your experience at Middlebury?

MB: I loved everything about my Middlebury experience.

I remember being a senior in high school, and Middlebury was my top school before I even visited. My dad took me on the college tour in maybe early September, and it was one of [those] unseasonably cold September nights. We pulled up to campus on [Route] 125 and got out of the car. I looked back behind me and saw the Green Mountains, and I just felt it – this is where I have to go.

MR: What did you study?

MB: I was a psychology major with a creative writing minor.

MR: Were you the founder of Tav?

The college was wanting to make changes, and the Tavern came out of one of the single-sex male fraternities. The Tavern was originally called Omega Alpha, which is the last letter and the first letter of the Greek alphabet, and the idea was: the end [of Greek life on campus], but the beginning of something new.

We felt it was really important to create this community of like-minded students who wanted to participate in this collaboration and co-creation. When I hear that Tavern is still around, it makes me happy for the college and happy for the students.

MR: How does it feel to be back in the town where you went to college?

MB: I've lived in lots of other places, [but] the reason why we live here is because of that same feeling that I had when I stepped out of that car 30-some-odd years ago. It is because Vermont and the Green Mountains and Addison County just feel like home.

I love the opportunity to be involved in a small community and to make a difference.

Addison West, located at 44 Main Street in downtown Middlebury, is open Tuesday and Wednesday 12–5 p.m.; Monday and Thursday to Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Editor's Note: some responses have been lightly edited for clarity and brevity.

COURTESY OF ELISABETH WALLER
Bonner collected antiques and vintage goods for the better part of ten years.

Vermont elects Welch, Balint while vote tallying continues for key national races

Continued from Page 1

Vermont saw a historic number of candidates up for election in open seats in the state government this year. Voters elected David Zuckerman of both the Progressive and Democratic parties to return as lieutenant governor with approximately 51.3% of the vote, defeating Republican Joe Benning, who received approximately 40.6% of the vote, as reported by the Secretary of State's Office.

Vermonters also re-elected Democrat Mike Pieciak over Republican candidate H. Brooke Paige to become State Treasurer. Paige also ran for Secretary of State and was defeated by Democrat Sarah Copeland Hanzas, who will replace outgoing Democratic Secretary of State Jim Condos. Democrat Dough Hoffer defeated Richard Morton in the race for Auditor of Accounts, and Democrat Charity Clark defeated Republican Michael Tagliavia in the race for Vermont Attorney General.

In Addison County, incumbent Democrats Christopher Bray and Ruth Hardy seemed poised to remain in their state Senate seats with all 25 towns reporting results by Wednesday morning. Middlebury also re-elected Democrats Amy Sheldon and Robin Scheu to the Vermont House of Representatives for the Addison-1 district. Addison also seemed likely to elect Pam Marsh as Probate Judge, Patricia Ross and Nicole Wilkerson as Assistant Judge, Eva P. Vekos as State's Attorney, Michael R. Elmore as Sheriff and Dave Silberman as High Bailiff.

Burlington also voted in favor of a $165 million bond to construct a new high school.

MiddVotes hosted a watch party with commentary from Professor of Political Science Bert Johnson in Crossroads Cafe on Tuesday night, beginning at 7 p.m. CNN coverage played on the big screen, while Johnson occasionally interjected with contextualizing information and analysis of races. The event ran until 10:30 p.m., when most Vermont races were settled, but several key national races remained undecided.

Johnson began with a preview of the races that were at stake, noting that control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate was up for grabs that evening. However, he also pointed to the thousands of state-level elections for seats in state legislatures, courts and other positions that are important on many local issues.

"There are all 435 House seats up for election today in the U.S. House of Representatives, there are 36 governor's races, there are 35 senate seats, there are 6,278 state legislators being elected today, and going into the election, 52% of state legislative seats were held by Republicans," Johnson told the crowd to open the night.

Johnson noted that as a midterm election with a Democratic president in the White House, Democrats were expected to lose seats in Congress as the president's party has done — with only two exceptions — in every midterm since 1945. Which party would emerge from election night with control of the Senate was more uncertain.

He also warned against drawing conclusions from early exit poll reports.

The Associated Press called Vermont's Senate election for Welch later in the night, to the cheers of students gathered in Crossroads.

"Peter Welch has won, moving from the House to the Senate," Johnson said. "Gerald Malloy, of the very catchy slogan 'deploy Malloy,' has not been deployed to the Senate."

By the end of the night, Democrats still seemed likely to lose control of the House of Representatives, while the Senate remained a toss-up. The Associated Press called Senate races for Democrats John Fetterman of Pennsylvania, Michael Bennet of Colorado and Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire, and called races for Republicans Marco Rubio of Florida, Ted Budd of North Carolina, J.D. Vance of Ohio and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin. As of Wednesday afternoon, votes in key Senate races were still being counted in Arizona between Democrat Mark Kelly and Republican Blake Masters and in Nevada between Democrat Catherine Cortez Masto and Republican Adam Laxalt. CNN projected Wednesday afternoon that in the Georgia race, between Democrat Raphael Warnock and Republican Herschel Walker, neither candidate will meet the 50% minimum threshold of the vote. The race will head to a runoff election on Dec. 6, leaving the balance of the Senate undecided for several more weeks.

TOM NEVINS/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Middlebury voters cast their ballots at the Recreation Center.

Rethinking (or realizing) your way of help

Op-Ed

Rostyk Yarovyk *is a member of the class of 2025.*

The past two semesters have been nothing short of exhausting. The fear of losing everything I have ever known and loved has overtaken my mind, as I have been lucid dreaming every single day since the war.

I dream of peace, but apart from that, I dream that other people finally understand where I and the other Ukrainians studying in the U.S. are coming from.

It is a daunting task to live through times of war and few people, thankfully, will ever have to experience it firsthand. I exist in a community where few people will ever understand what I am currently going through. While others may think that's a problem, I disagree. One does not have to relate to a problem personally to be able to empathize and help. What I do find to be a problem, however, is that most people do not realize that they have the privilege to help others. Throughout the eight months of the war, I have met countless individuals that pretend no conflicts exist in their world, opting instead to live in isolated happiness. That goes for every conflict or disaster that has happened in recent times, from Palestine to Ethiopia, to Venezuela, and now to Ukraine.

The power to help is a strong and rewarding one. I have been volunteering on smaller scales for about five years, mostly focusing on beginning with speech translations for immigrants, spreading mental health awareness, and sexual education. Right now I help other Ukrainian students navigate study abroad planning. I can acknowledge that I am quite privileged but I can also use that privilege to help others. It is something that makes me feel alive and fulfilled. The war in Ukraine has only empowered my drive to help spread awareness. I truly do not care how much it takes or how many interviews, trips, or events I will have to do. All I know is that I want to help my country in every way possible.

This is why I am writing this piece. In no way do I want to guilt trip anyone reading this into mindlessly donating money. All I ask is to think about your place in this world and what you are contributing to your community — which could include financial help. I myself am yet again bringing awareness to an issue that seems to remain unnoticed despite its heavy discussion. It is true, Ukraine has received immense amounts of media coverage. But now that news fatigue is setting in, I can clearly observe that little has changed. The war is still going on, if not getting worse, for the citizen population now that the cold weather is near. Other global disasters do not even get mentioned, because they are ruled out as unimportant or "too far away." This idea is very alien to me and only brings discomfort in the realization that struggling peoples do not matter for anyone outside.

It goes without saying that it is hard waking up every day and reading the news about your hometown getting shelled while you see tranquility and routine in others' lives. I saw many families pass by my window during Parent's Weekend, but I really wanted to see only one family: my own. You can ask any international student on campus and they will give you the same answer. We have risked so much by moving completely alone to a new country, only to realize that our countries do not matter to the people around us. Here, other countries are truly only "the others."

I want to end by quoting my Mom: "I do not want to talk about the war, because I do not want you to suffer as we do. Otherwise, who will be the one to rebuild Ukraine?" And now I want to redirect this statement to you. I would never wish the struggles we are going through upon anyone else. I really do hope you never understand what it feels like to have the fear of losing your home at any second, every waking moment. But I do hope that you understand that you have the power to help anyone. You do not need to relate to them; you do not need to know them. Help does not have boundaries or limitations. And after we eventually rebuild Ukraine, you and I will make at least one mom happy.

Thea Volpp

Envisioning outreach and support at a post-affirmatitive action Middlebury

Editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus Editorial Board

Susanna Schatz

The Supreme Court began hearing the oral arguments for two cases which will decide the future role of race in college admissions on Oct. 30. In the 40 years since Regents of the University of California v. Bakke established affirmative action's constitutionality, there have been numerous challenges. The Supreme Court, even as recently as 2016, has continually upheld affirmative action. But this court is different. Many believe that given the court's conservative supermajority, it is not a matter of if affirmative action will be overturned, but to what extent.

We cannot understate how radically this ruling will change our campus.

Last year, more than half (52%) of the students admitted to Middlebury in the class of 2026 were people of color — a five percentage-point increase from the class of 2025. These numbers represent a critical step forward from a college which has long espoused commitment to diversity as a value even as it has failed to deliver on that promise.

However, given the recent news, the class of 2028 will likely be one of the least diverse classes in the college's future.

We do not have to wonder how eliminating affirmative action affects diversity at highly selective colleges. Both the University of Michigan and the University of California system were forced to discontinue affirmative action due to local edicts, causing a significant drop in the rates of admitted students of color. The UC schools attempted to compensate for the loss by investing in extensive outreach infrastructure, but it took UCLA roughly 20 years to regain demographics that paralleled their previous student bodies. Black and Latino students remain underrepresented at many of the UCs.

These examples demonstrate what the stakes are at Middlebury. Middlebury is not a UC school. Middlebury does not have the same name recognition, institutional outreach or regional racial diversity as a UC. For a student to even know what Middlebury College is in the first place often requires immense privilege. This is all to say that when Middlebury loses the right to practice affirmative action, the consequences will be even more severe.

We can anticipate how our campus will suffer, and we are calling on the administration to take proactive actions.

Like most of the members of our campus, the members of our board believe the value of a diverse student body should be self-evident. Diversity allows students to learn from each other inside and outside the classroom. Middlebury likes to imagine itself as an institution with a global focus; that focus starts at home. Race-conscious college admissions are one, of many ways, to chip away at the racial wage gap directly caused by centuries of systemic and institutional racism in the United States.

Affirmative action is only one way of determining an incoming class' racial demographics. Middlebury still considers legacy status in admissions. The college also recruits athletes, and, as of 2018, 79% of NESCAC athletes were white. Both processes offer additional advantages to some of Middlebury's most privileged applicants. They will remain untouched by the upcoming ruling.

Among our board, there was very little disagreement to affirmative action's merits, but our opinions are largely moot. Affirmative action as we know it will likely soon be over and the more important question now is how Middlebury will respond.

The college is currently in the last year of a three year test-optional pilot program. We encourage the college to cement this program into a permanent policy. Standardized tests are not the great admissions equalizer, but rather an indication of privilege and resources. High standardized test scores are often more indicative of access to wealth than academic merit. In a news brief, admissions directly cited their pivot to a temporary test-optional model as a factor in the class of 2026's increased diversity — making a test-optional policy a stronger priority than ever before.

Middlebury must also increase their outreach infrastructure. This could look like revamping and increasing the scope of programs like the Discover Middlebury program, which has pivoted to offering "virtual fly-in visits" since the pandemic began and continues to do so. Many students come from schools or regions of the country Middlebury does not visit. The onus is completely on the student to attend virtual information sessions and visit campus — which often requires getting on a plane or having guardians take time off. In anticipation of the upcoming ruling, Middlebury needs to make accessibility a chief concern of the admissions process more than ever before.

Addressing the structural inequities of admissions is not enough. Middlebury must provide more support for the students of color who chose to attend Middlebury. Though 52% of those admitted to the class of 2026 were students of color, not all of those students matriculated. It should not be a surprise Middlebury struggles to maintain a high yield rate for students of color. Our campus is located in an extremely white state and offers little institutional support for students of color after orientation. It is critical Middlebury provides further institutional aid, whether that be free textbooks and summer storage, counselors of color and an expanded system for opportunity grants. As we noted in an editorial earlier this year, "If students have relocated to rural Vermont — a state that is 95.1% white — only to find there is not adequate infrastructure to support them, we as an institution have failed."

The repeal of affirmative action will trigger dramatic changes in the student composition of our campus and requires an equally dramatic response. We do not yet know the extent to which race will be prohibited in admissions considerations. But what we do know is that our campus will be less diverse and forever changed. If Middlebury wants to move beyond performative recruitment tactics, then they must invest heavily in outreach infrastructure and support for students from underrepresented backgrounds throughout the admissions process. Creating and implementing such infrastructure will not be easy or cheap, but it is necessary. And as the ability of admissions offices to consider race ends, some effects can — and should — be mitigated by retiring the more subtle practices that disproportionately result in white students being admitted to institutions of higher education. Some colleges have begun to discontinue advantages for legacy applicants, citing the privilege it perpetuates. Athletic recruitment, especially in sports with high financial barriers to entry, has even been called "affirmative action for rich white students." The time is now for Middlebury to invest in admissions, scale up outreach to underrepresented school districts and seriously consider amending the policies that keep the student body overwhelmingly white — because our ability to build diversity at the college has never before felt so threatened.

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The Middlebury Campus

HOW I FEEL @ MIDD

Column

***Kristen Watkins** is a member of the SGA Mental Health Committee and the class of 2024.*

Over the summer I was constantly spamming my Instagram story with aesthetic pictures of the places I was going and the fun things I was doing. I figured that the good pictures that I took deserved to be seen. When I got back to campus for fall semester, I had people telling me how amazing my summer looked. While I did have the opportunity to do some incredible things, my posts didn't show the hard days; the ones when my anxiety prevented me from leaving my room, or those I spent the entirety of looking at other people's posts, thinking about how they seemed to be having more fun than me.

The idea that Instagram is a cultivated highlight reel is by no means revolutionary. Yet, especially at Midd, it can be hard to remember that the lives of our peers are more complicated than they appear on their social media. In my two years here, I have found myself constantly comparing my real life to the well-curated ones on social media. I have to remind myself that I don't see the hardships of others on social media; no one wants to talk about their struggles with an acquaintance in the dining hall, let alone post about them for the world to see. We reserve sharing our true feelings with a few close friends or family members and let everyone else go on believing that we are doing great.

Even at a pretty small school, it can be easy to feel lost. Everyone seems to be constantly on top of their shit: simultaneously posting fun adventures on Instagram, speaking up in every class discussion, going to parties, participating in countless organizations, and still having time to meet all of their deadlines. It all seems impossible. It can feel like everyone around you is managing while you're struggling to stay afloat. I have certainly felt that way during my time here, and these pressures make it even harder to admit when you are struggling.

Well, the SGA Mental Health committee is here to tell you that you are most certainly not alone in your struggles. Maybe this sounds like a cliche pulled right from your Instagram feed. Still, we hope this new column in The Campus can be a place where students can share their experiences with mental health in order to reject the false notion of the perfect Midd student. The reality is, at one point or another, we have probably all struggled here. Honestly, if you have managed to not struggle with some aspect of being a Middlebury student, we hope you'll send in your tricks.

Your story doesn't have to be creative or poetic. It doesn't matter if you think it's too small to share. We just want it to be real. We just want you to share how you really feel. The campus in the middle of nowhere can be isolating. The long, cold winters can make it hard to want to leave your room. So if you've ever felt any of these struggles or have had other experiences you want to share, we want to hear about it.

Even if you don't share your hardships/struggle story with us, share it with somebody else. I'm not asking you to yell in the middle of Proc about your struggles (though we certainly won't stop you), but to encourage you to take the time to talk to friends or even a mental health professional about all the not-so-perfect things. If more of us talk about just how hard it is to be a student at Middlebury, then more and more people will realize how normal it is to be not perfect all the time.

So, if you want to share your story of how you feel at Midd, fill out the form at go/howifeel, and we will reach out to get your piece published. Even if you don't have a clear idea of what you want to write or what form it will take, please still fill out the form, and we can work together to make something great.

How I feel @ Midd: Re-evaluating my experience with therapy

Column

***Dominic Browne** is a member of the SGA Mental Health Committee and the class of 2026.*

Therapy was unknown to 16-year-old boys in traditional Caribbean houses like my own. To ask my mother, a traditional Caribbean woman, to talk to someone other than members of my immediate family about my personal issues or mental health status, was just unheard of. Like many other Caribbean children, I had an understanding early on that therapy was not an option for me. For me, it never hurt to try and bring the idea of therapy up, but for many of my friends, this was not even an option due to the intense panic the idea of therapy catalyzed for BIPOC parents. This pushed me to deal with my problems on my own for the majority of my teenage years.

After months of intermittently bringing up the idea of therapy to my mom, my pediatrician recommended that all children coming out of this remote learning school year seek a therapist — even just for a simple conversation. All my mother saw was a white woman telling her child there was something wrong with him, but after my pediatrician gave a paper list of names and numbers to call, all with reviews and ratings assigned to their specific website, my mom was open to the idea.

So finally, after months, I was able to see a therapist. I developed a consistent schedule of work and therapy for the rest of my summer, until senior year of high school started when I balanced school and therapy. I continued with my therapist from the end of junior year in high school into the end of my senior year summer. As my therapist provided me with service via telehealth, they registered for an Interim Telehealth Registration, since they are living outside the state of Vermont. I was preparing to begin a new life in Vermont for college and expecting to manage therapy in a new environment with the same therapist remotely.

Middlebury has been great to me. I've been privileged enough to make amazing friends here, and I have received immense support from colleagues and staff. I was given the advantage to enjoy my social life. This campus quite honestly gave me the fresh culture shock I was looking for. As I started my classes, I felt confident in my ability to succeed at the same level as any of my peers. However, upon entering my first sociology class as the only Black individual in the room, I felt uneasy knowing that when a white student repeated the same words I said with "smarter" terms three times in a row, all I could do was keep working and move on.

The more I kept on moving on, the more I also started to notice that privilege doesn't have the same meaning here as it does back home. While privilege is inherent in every single thing we do, it typically is known to benefit white people back where I'm from in Brooklyn. Here, I find privilege to be a part of my education, as I have realized that I have not been given the same educational opportunities as my peers. White privilege is accurately proven to be a part of my everyday learning and understanding, in and out of the classrooms. My educational background demonstrates that I persevered and did what I could to do well in high school, but the reality is that I was not given the same resources that most white students in my classes have been provided with. As a result of learning this, I struggled. I would work so hard but would always have the wrong strategy, the wrong grammar, the wrong sentences and everything would make me feel like my education wasn't sufficient.

To be frank, I had trouble adjusting to that reality. It was a culture shock because I was shocked to see myself having to balance for one, the doubt in debating if my identities, such as my education levels and racial background belongs at a place like Middlebury. Additionally, the confidence to still care about my career and manage school is something that requires consistency and structured balance. Consequently, I started to wonder why I hadn't been feeling the same way about therapy as I did before. I had stopped attending sessions because of work or school, and even sometimes because I just didn't feel like it. When I did go to my remote sessions, I was so caught up in meetings with professors and work that I would end up treating therapy like they were professional meetings. I stopped being authentic in this aspect of my life, and although I would still tell my therapist anything I wanted to get off my chest, it would feel less authentic and more of a means of checking off a box on my to-do list for that day.

With the desire to regain a connection to therapy again, I feel like I had to do some mental resetting in understanding what I do have on my campus for me, and being honest with myself with how I feel mentally at school. I started to understand the resources that were available for me, such as the CTLR. They helped me manage my time better and helped me understand the feedback I was given on specific papers as well. Outside of how academics were affecting my mental health, I had become more attached to my identity. There is such a strong community of color at Middlebury, but there is also a lack of representation for Black queer men like me on this campus. The student community has a reputation of making room for POC but not pushing and providing the platform for intersectionality within people of color on this campus. Providing the platforms looks like pushing for community events or conversations where we are able to acknowledge the inequality among intersecting identities. This could potentially be more beneficial to the students on this campus in educating themselves on discrimination as a whole. Being queer and Afro-Caribbean are identities I started to appreciate much more leaving my hometown, but I've felt as though this helped me realize how important therapy really was for me in a space where privilege hits harder than it ever has.

I also came to a bigger realization that because my life here is much different than it is back home, I needed a fresh start in terms of understanding the life I'm trying to create now. Though my therapist had helped me over the last two years, I realized that I needed to be on the lookout for someone who can relate to and understand my intersectionality. Realizing that therapy isn't taboo was probably the best thing for me. I knew my first therapist wouldn't be my last, but I recognized that it's okay to go through multiple until you've found the one that is right for you and your life at any moment.

Only being three months into my first semester, therapy and the idea of it looks way different than it did to me before, and hopefully my experience can help others understand why therapy does end up having a connection to my life as a whole. While I'm still experiencing the culture shock and still persevering through the education system here, I've been able to consistently be honest about what I feel and in what I can and cannot control.

TAPPING INTO MIDD'S STRONG NETWORK OF FEMINIST ACTIVISTS

Op-Ed

***Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri** and **Mei Dwyer-Frattalone** are co-organizers for the Rally in Support of Iranian Women and members of the class of 2024.*

On Friday, Nov. 4, a group of Middlebury students gathered to march in solidarity with the Iranian and Kurdish women protesting for their basic human rights in Iran, and mourning the death of Mahsa Jina Amini. After allegedly being killed by the morality police for not properly adhering to the sexist and oppressive mandatory hijab laws of the Iranian government, Iranian and Kurdish women and girls turned their freedom dream, to have basic human rights, into a freedom fight.

They are protesting in their streets and burning the mandatory hijab, more desperate for freedom than afraid of the violence of the morality police or the possibility of arrest and sexual assault in what the Iranian government is calling "re-education" centers. Two more young lives were unnecessarily taken by the brutal morality police; 16-year-olds Nika Shakarami and Sarena Esmailzadeh died fighting for their sisters and themselves. They are not the only girls who have lost their lives in the battle to end gendered violence and oppression in Iran. On Friday, we gathered to stand in solidarity with these brave women. We gathered to honor their lives. And we gathered to amplify their voices.

This march wouldn't have been possible without the strong network of feminist activists at Middlebury.

When I began to think about organizing the march, the first person I approached was my dear friend Mei. I didn't know how to start the process, but I knew it was something I wanted to do, so I turned to her. My confidant, personal cheerleader and a student worker of the Feminist Resource Center, I knew she'd be able to help. I asked Mei if the Feminist Resource Center at Chellis House might be able to support this sort of event. Then, I found my first link to the strong feminist network at Midd.

I hadn't committed myself to organizing the march at that point, I was merely exploring the possibilities. I didn't know if I was the right person for this task; I had never organized anything like this before, and I was afraid I wasn't close enough to the situation to organize a thoughtful event that was conscious of all the deeply rooted intricacies of the problems facing Iranian and Kurdish women in Iran right now.

Mei committed herself to helping me start this initiative. The very next day she came to me and said that the center would definitely be able to support the march. Karin Hanta, the director of the Feminist Resource Center, suggested that I come to their next meeting for further discussion. And so, the initiative was born. I am so grateful for Mei's help with setting up this connection. She is the best co-organizer in the world and this wouldn't have been possible without her.

The Feminist Resource Center immediately welcomed me into their circle. My feminist network grew by one more link. Director Hanta gave me and Mei direction on logistics. She suggested we reach out to the Dean of Student Affairs and get the event registered on Presence. She also frequently forwarded us resources regarding protests in Iran and solidarity movements in the United States.

She sent an article from The Harvard Crimson that was particularly informative. The article was written by a Muslim student who actively chooses to wear the hijab. She was extremely bothered that some U.S. protests were using language that implied that there is something wrong with the hijab, when in fact the problem is the dictator's using it as a means of oppression. This informed a lot of the language we used and led to us getting in touch with the Muslim Students Association (MSA). We had a meeting with them and made sure that all of the language we were using was respectful to women that actively choose to wear the hijab. We collaborated with them on our poster and put large emphasis on the fact that we are advocating for women to be able to choose what they wear, not to promote a particular choice.

Mei and I were also able to connect with strong feminist voices at Middlebury Union High School. Narges Anzali spread the word about the event in the high school. She also read a beautiful poem at the event.

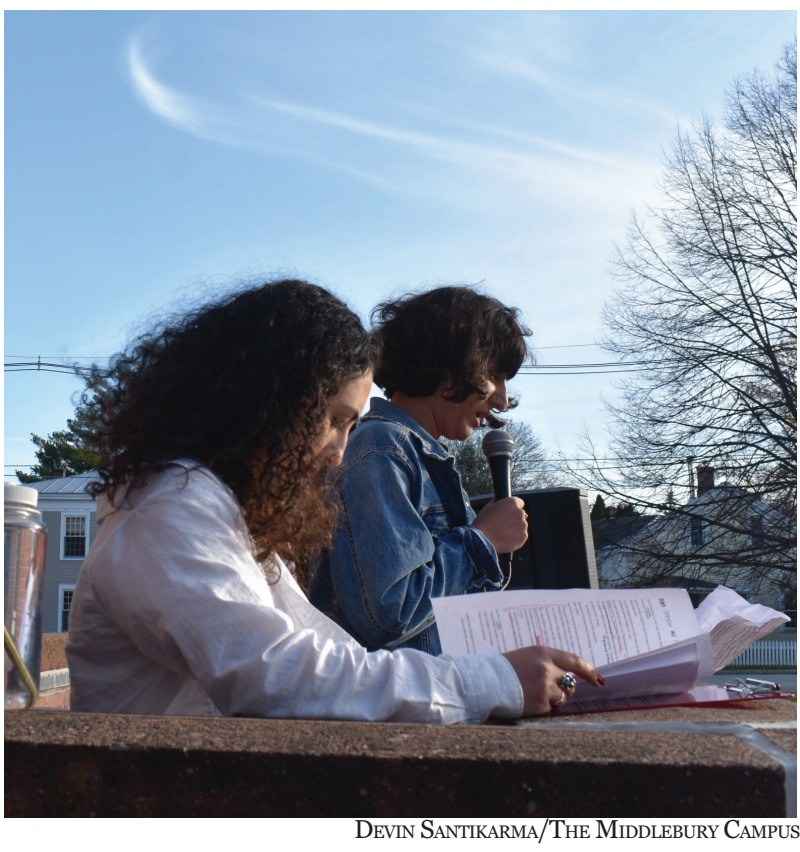
A friend connected us with Iman Behbehani, who led the chant "Women, Life, Freedom," and read a touching and powerful speech at the event.

Student-employees of the Feminist Resource Center helped hang up posters and put us in touch with several student groups to organize sign-making. Radical Asians (RAISINS) and Feminist Action at Middlebuy (FAM) both came together to make signs for the march. The event was a promising example of multiple student organizations pooling resources and joining in a shared passion for feminism. RAISINS does not necessarily present as a feminist organization, but was one of the groups that volunteered their time to make the event happen.

This effort was a collaboration amongst many affinity groups and showed that the feminist network at Middlebury transcends the focus of various student groups. By organizing this march, we revealed feminism as a shared passion at the root of various cultural and political organizations. It seemed that intersectionality allowed for various groups to come together based on the topic of women's rights. We found a significant overlap in the feminist beliefs amongst MSA, RAISINS, FAM and Chellis House, and we are hopeful that commonality can be at the forefront of future, bigger activist movements.

We believe this level of collaboration will bring existing organizing efforts to a new level. The Nov. 4 march showed us that there is so much to be gained by reaching out for more perspectives and support.

Editor's Note: Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri '24 is an Opinions Editor for The Campus.



DEVIN SANTIKARMA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri '24 (right) speaks to the students assembled for the rally .

FROM THE ARCHIVES: ANDY WARHOL'S INDEX

By TULIP LARSON
Contributing Writer

"From the Archives" is an opportunity for various writers to visit the Middlebury Special Collections and write about a different artifact each week. The Special Collections boasts hundreds of thousands of historic items, and through this column we encourage writers to explore not only the college's history, but also the history of the world around us.

Courtesy of Special Collections

"Andy Warhol's Index" is the artist's 1967 pop-up book.

Though most are familiar with Andy Warhol's infamous Campbell Soup painting, few have heard of his 1967 popup book called "Andy Warhol's Index," which Middlebury Special Collections acquired in 2016. Published by Random House, the genre of this popup book is hard to define, integrating photography, written interviews, stickers, records on springs, balloons and more. Sometimes described as the ultimate hipster's coffee table book, Warhol's "Index" offers a view into the alternative pop culture of the late 60s.

Wrapped in aluminum foil — a favorite medium of Warhol's — the cover depicts a sunglasses-clad man, contrasted against a print of Warhol's famous "Brillo Box." A worn yellow sticker denotes the book's price as a mere $4.95, shocking in comparison to the thousands of dollars these books can sell for today. The book begins with an interview between a "German Reporter" and Warhol at his disco club — The Balloon Farm — located in Greenwich Village, N.Y. The reporter wastes no time with frivolous questions; right off the bat, he asks Warhol about how he reconciles the various aspects of his career — artist, filmmaker, club owner — and how he wants to define himself and his work. The reporter receives clipped answers from Warhol, who was notorious for detesting interviews. The reporter eventually acknowledges Warhol's lack of enthusiasm, asking, "You don't want to talk at all…" and Warhol responds "eh, no." The interview ends there, with the assurance that it is to be continued later in the book.

The following few pages are an amalgamation of high contrast black and white photos of Warhol and his friends, a colorized pop-up of a castle, an allegedly "playable" paper record and other fun knick-knacks that illustrate Warhol's inventive artistry. On one page, a small sheet of transparent paper is taped over a photograph of a sunbather. Instructions say "FOR A BIG SURPRISE!!! Tear out and place in a container of warm water," a mystery that may never be revealed due to the rarity of these pop-up books today.

The second page of text that Warhol includes is an interview with Ingrid Superstar. Dubbed "Superstar" after the name of Warhol's New York City clique of friends, Superstar appeared in many of Warhol's underground films. This interview takes place in Warhol's workshop, known as "The Factory," which Superstar describes vividly. Through her candid descriptions, the reader learns that Warhol's workshop was painted silver wall-to-wall and had aluminum foil hanging from the ceilings. Characterizing the studio as a dilapidated mess, Superstar also mentions silkscreens strewn about and faulty plumbing.

The second half of the book is dedicated to Warhol's film and music ventures, first featuring another interview with Superstar where she discusses The Velvet Underground — an influential rock band managed by Warhol himself. In 1967, Warhol introduced the band members to the German model, Nico, who became crucial to the band as well as one of Warhol's superstars. In fact, this book acts, in part, as an homage to the band, including many pictures and memorabilia from their early days. During this interview, Superstar discusses how intense The Velvet Underground's music is and how they experiment with sound in a very avant-garde way, so much so that their music is not always pleasurable. Superstar also discusses what it's like to act in Warhol's underground movies, describing how he employs a unique split-screen tactic (where two movies are playing at once) and looks to express his artistic desires rather than to create an enjoyable film for the audience.

"Andy Warhol's Index" concludes with a return to the Balloon Farm interview. In this continuation of the interview, the reporter again asks about how Warhol defines himself and what fame means to him. Warhol responds that fame means nothing to him. The reporter, disgruntled, questions whether all of our knowledge of Warhol has been completely formed without his input, to which he responds, yes. And yet, it is in fact through this pop-up book that Warhol offers his input on public perception of him. Through these carefully curated photographs and interviews, Warhol announces to the world how he wants to be defined.

EVOLUTION DANCE CREW BRINGS "LOVE, SEX AND MAGIC" TO CAMPUS

By AVA MOSELEY
Contributing Writer

The Evolution Dance Crew (Evo) made their debut for the semester with two back-to-back shows in Wilson Hall on Nov. 5. The show was titled "Love, Sex, and Magic," a theme voted on by the group's dancers because of its versatility and variety of interpretations. For some, the theme is about the joys and difficulties that come along with relationships with other people. For others, it's about trusting oneself, trusting others and trusting the dance process.

Tickets for the show sold out quickly, even with four hundred spots available. The line to get in was out the door as students eagerly filed in. Before the start, Evo's co-presidents Amina Matavia '23 and John Bermudez '24 welcomed the audience and familiarized them with Evo, which was founded by several students of color who felt excluded by other dance programs on campus.

"They felt that they were excluded in favor of other (mostly white) dancers who had more formal training in styles that were considered more "legitimate," which excluded genres like hip-hop, Afrobeats and Caribbean styles," Evo member Devon Hunt '23 said.

"Evo's mission was really to create a space where everyone is accepted and allowed to express themselves through dance, no matter their race, gender, sexuality, body type or training level," Hunt added.

Today, the group includes more than 40 members with various dance backgrounds. Saturday's performance, which lasted for an hour, incorporated 25 pieces. This included 11 main pieces, 13 shorter transitions and one group piece with the entire crew. All dances were choreographed by students and ranged in styles including hip-hop, Afro-Caribbean, Latin, ballroom and contemporary. This was Evo's first venture into contemporary pieces and many dancers had not previously performed Latin styles. The variety of routines gave dancers the chance to showcase their range of talent and try out new techniques.

Simone Gonsell '25 said learning to accept your own personal style of dance can be difficult at times, but the group is there to support one another's creative freedom.

"What's wonderful about Evo is that everyone is encouraged to step out of their comfort zones and explore different styles, which really helps foster more confidence in people's dancing," Gonsell said.

The performance also included a variety of songs and costume changes. Many pieces began with saturated lighting from the back which highlighted the dancers' silhouettes, then brightened into a radiant light which illuminated them from the front. All together these elements created a powerful atmosphere that told a story and invoked a range of emotions. Some pieces were exciting, upbeat and empowering while others were vulnerable, wistful and sensitive. All throughout, the crowd was cheering passionately and sometimes even calling the names of their friends on stage. After the show, all Evo members appeared on stage and gave a celebratory bow. They also gave a heartfelt send-off to Anna Saviano '22.5 who performed her last show with the group.

Evo members received tremendous feedback on Saturday, but they have not always felt validated at the institutional level. Hunt said Evo isn't taken as seriously as other athletic programs or clubs.

"It took years for us to get authorization to count as a PE credit, even though most Evo members are committing anywhere from 3–7+ hours a week to rehearsals." Receiving a PE credit is contingent on active participation in the show.

Courtesy of Haonan Dong

Dancers lift up Lynn Chai '23 in "Gatekeeper."

Being a member of Evo can be a big commitment. Despite their busy schedules, dancers meet regularly and often put in work outside of rehearsal to practice routines. Choreographing the routines is also a long process. Gonsell offered insight into what it took to choreograph the opening routine.

"Lynn [Chai '23] and I met multiple times each week, outside of organized practice and full-crew rehearsals, to come up with choreography. I would say overall it took us around a month and a half to create and finalize the choreography," Gonsell said.

But despite the intense commitment required, Evo members attest to the supportive nature of the group even in busy times.

"Everyone is super encouraging and nice even when I feel I'm not doing well," Hunt said.

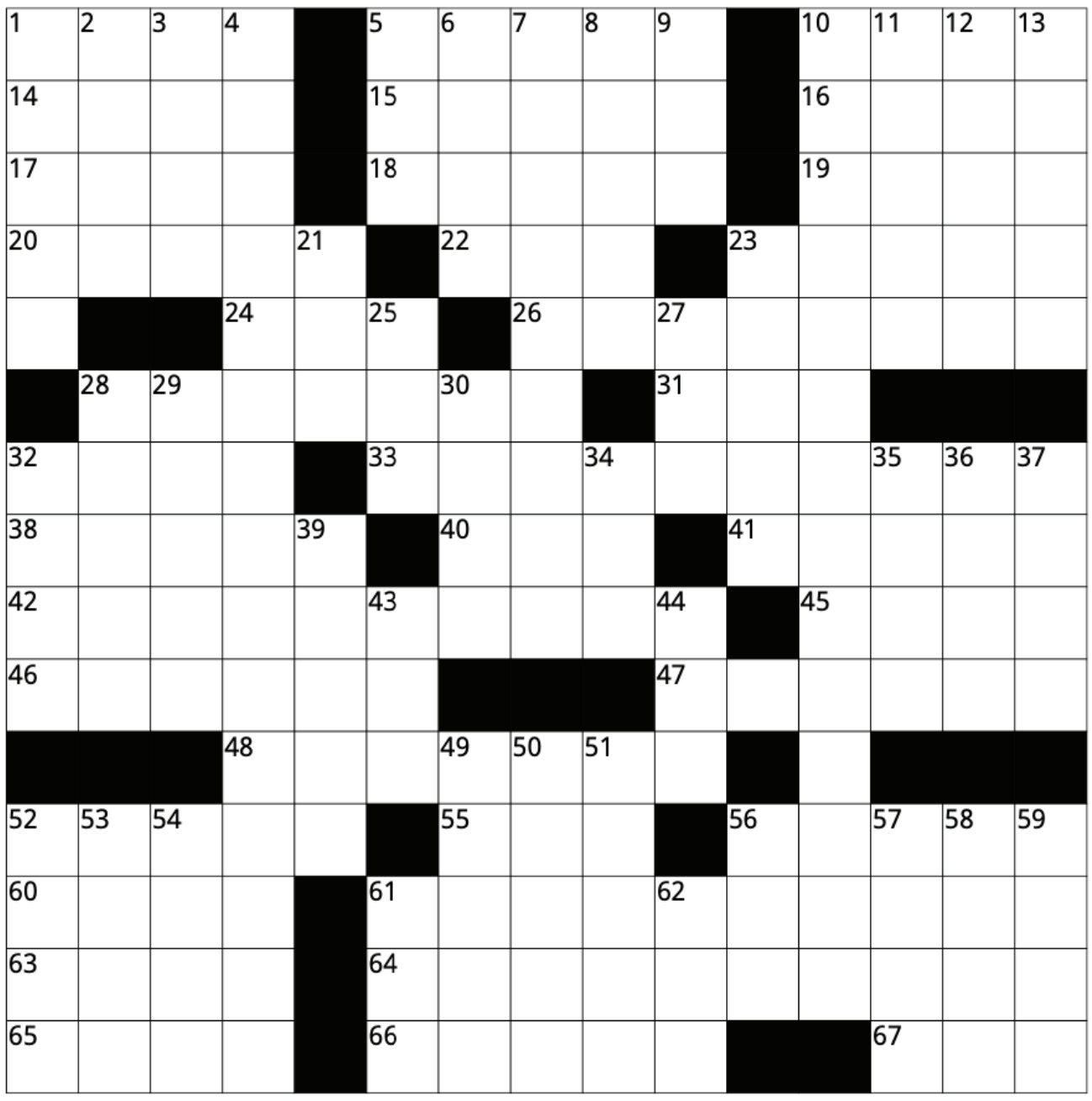
"All our members are constantly enthusiastic and supportive of one another, especially when stress is running high," Gonsell said.

Following their first show this school year, Evo has plenty of plans for the rest of the year. Evo will be holding J-Term workshops open to all students on a first-come, first-served basis. They will perform a campus-wide spring show, are looking to perform at the Nocturne Arts Festival and are hoping to collaborate with the Middlebury Intercultural Leaders Coalition. They plan to perform at the Night of Black Culture Gala hosted by the Black Student Union in late Spring, at a block party hosted by Distinguished Men of Color and at a conference hosted by the Middlebury African Student Organization. As Evo prepares for their upcoming events, Matavia believes that the Middlebury dance community is in a better place now than it was eight years ago before Evo was founded. Some dancers share her sentiment.

"This has honestly been one of the most comforting and supportive spaces I have been a part of since arriving on campus," Gonsell said. "It does require some time commitment, but it is always worth it in the end."

CROSSWORD FOR YOU!!!

By WILLIAM REED & HAYDEN HUNSKOR
Layout Editor and Contributing Writer



Across

1 _____ Fu Panda
5 Capital of Hubei province
10 "You've Got ____"
14 Yours: Fr.
15 The Devil Wears _____
16 "Je t'____"
17 Shout
18 Easy _____
19 Former Dallas Quarterback Tony
20 Words after make or close
22 Orangutan, e.g.
23 "Blowin' in the Wind" singer Bob
24 401(k) alternative
26 Christmas season
28 Argued over prices
31 One of the "Little Women"
32 Hummus dipper
33 Bouncer's place
38 Large concert venue
40 Middlebury's Pepin, abbr.
41 Unfamiliar with
42 Gave more thought to
45 Emulates Nicki Minaj
46 Sans-____ font, plural
47 Famously hot-tempered chef Gordon
48 TV genres, or clue to 4, 7, and 10 down (pre-1980s)
52 Come to _____ (stop)
55 Yellowfin tuna
56 ____-Loompa (Willy Wonka worker)
60 House: Span.
61 Italian eateries
63 Z ____ zebra
64 Relevance
65 "If ____ a nickel for ..."
66 Hangs around
67 Vietnamese New Year

Down

1 Watercraft and palindrome
2 Salt Lake City Pac-12 team
3 New Orleans, abbr.
4 1960s sitcom about a group of castaways
5 Largest New Deal agcy.
6 Bear in the air (constellation)
7 Sitcom with Richie and the Fonz
8 Farewell: Fr.
9 x2 it's a viral dance
10 Dick Van Dyke's sitcom wife
11 Garlicky sauce
12 Email slang for: >:(
13 Sierra _____
21 Unit of work
23 Exorcism target
25 Ctrl-____-Del
27 Drink like a cat
28 Company newbie
29 Shed ____
30 Plural suffix for iceb- (Will and Hayden couldn't think of anything... again)
32 Awesome golf score, plural
34 Marseilles Mrs.
35 I am > ____ (21 Savage album)
36 California wine valley
37 Online crafts marketplace
39 ____ as a fiddle
43 Superlative suffix
44 Hosp. workers
49 ^
50 Juliet _____ of "Psych"
51 Walter with a Secret Life
52 Antioxidant-rich berry
53 Corned beef concoction
54 Largest continent
56 Suffix with ball-
57 After dinner candy
58 Tempo
59 At ____ time (prearranged)
61 Pulls a Charmin shenanigan, briefly
62 "Deck the Halls" contraction

NICHE READS: NOVEL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENGLISH MAJORS

By SYLVIE SHURE
Opinions Editor

Out of all Middlebury students, English majors probably have enough books to read. Maybe the very books on this list have already been assigned to them. Nevertheless, there are some fabulous books that center around the study of literature, and it would be a shame not to compile a few into a handy list!

These three novels are about teachers and students of literature, and their thematic elements lean into the complexity of life, love and relationships. They're all relatively short and incredibly rich and rewarding reads.

"A Single Man" by Christopher Isherwood

Set in Los Angeles in the '60s, "A Single Man" follows English professor George as he grapples with the loss of his partner, Jim. The action of the novel takes place in a 24-hour period a year after Jim's sudden death and details the minutiae of George's life and grief. It explores with gut-wrenching precision the pain of loss, while also capturing the mundane joys that make life worthwhile.

Quiet, intimate and hauntingly beautiful, "A Single Man" is a landmark of queer literature. George, a gay Englishman, is an outsider in his tony LA suburb, and the novel hones in on the feeling of not quite belonging.

Rather than losing itself in the mind-numbing sadness of grief, "A Single Man" maintains a balance between the miserable and the hopeful, the tragic and the furious. It is a gorgeous read and a fascinating window into the past. You should read this book if you are interested in queer literature, if you like complex cha acter studies or if you're looking for a bittersweet book.

"The Unchangeable Spots of Leopards" by Kristopher Jansma

"The Unchangeable Spots of Leopards" is characterized by its fascinatingly unreliable narrator, a shy boy who has wanted to be an author his entire life. The story follows him through college, where he meets the magnetic Julian McGann and Evelyn, his beautiful actor friend. As Julian's literary career skyrockets and the narrator's remains at ground level, the story follows the narrator in his travels throughout the world and his wayward attempts to match Julian's success.

Definitely the lightest read on this list, "The Unchangeable Spots of Leopards" is fun and exciting. Blurring the lines between fiction and reality, it explores the complexities of friendship and love and the frustrations of rivalry.

This is a book that will keep you reading with its lively characters and unpredictable plot. It will be especially exciting for creative writing majors as a story offering heightened descriptions of the writing process.

You should read this book if you like unreliable narrators, if you're interested in creative writing or if you're looking for a fun book to help unwind.

"Stoner" by John Williams

In the late 1800s, when William Stoner's parents send him to college to study agronomy, he instead stumbles into the world of English literature. He becomes enamored with the field and devotes his life to its study, ultimately remaining at his alma mater, University of Missouri, to become a professor of English. "Stoner" is the complete portrait of his life, from birth to death, as he navigates the bitter disappointments of life, love and loneliness.

"Stoner" is an understated novel with little action, consisting mostly of an unflinchingly close examination of one unexceptional man. Simultaneously vast and limited in its scope, this novel feels undeniably real, a product of its nuanced, flawed and relentlessly ordinary characters.

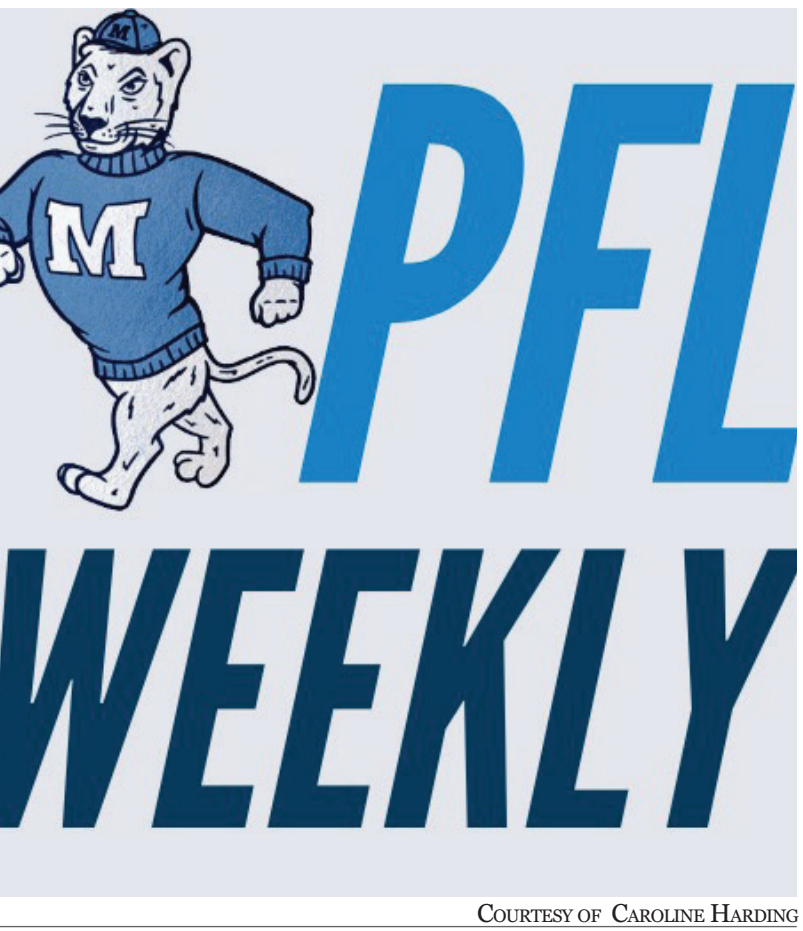
You should read this book if you like quiet stories, if you appreciate character over plot or if you are looking for a more philosophical read.

PFL Weekly

By COLE SIEFER, DAN URCHUK, BEN WAGNER & SAM MCGARRAHAN
Podcast Hosts

Tough games, fierce competitions and sweet sweet victory: this past week has been all about NESCAC tourneys and the start of Panther winter practices. Field hockey claims its fifth consecutive NESCAC title. Men's soccer concedes a hard-fought NESCAC semifinal in overtime vs. the Amherst Mammoths. Volleyball ends their season in the quarterfinals vs. No. 3-seeded Williams. Football takes another win against Hamilton, currently sitting at 7–1 with one game remaining.

LISTEN TO PFL WEEKLY ON SPOTIFY



Courtesy of Caroline Harding

MEN'S RUGBY LOOKS TO IMPROVE UPON POSITIVE SEASON

Courtesy of Jonny Gaston
The men's rugby team poses for a post-match photo.

By RYAN HEINZERLING
Staff Writer

Men's rugby wrapped up their season on Oct. 22, finishing the season 3–3, but falling just shy of the Division II playoffs.

Despite a premature end to the season, Captain Lucas Donavan-Lafuente '23 saw plenty of positives in his team this fall.

"Time and time again I'd ask new players how their first game felt and the most common response was that they didn't really know what was going on but they had a blast," Lafuente said. "I really want to focus on [...] the fun of the game instead of a need to win. We always ended up playing better."

Focusing on the fun of the game,the Panthers ripped through the first two matches of the year with pure domination, outscoring their opponents Babson and Union by a combined 60–10. The win streak did not last, unfortunately, as at the annual alumni game, which also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the club's founding, the Panthers hit a brick wall. The team lost to Holy Cross 37–7.

"The 50th Anniversary game was the most pressure I had ever felt in all my 15 years of rugby," Lafuente said. "I felt I had failed the team. [But] scoring in the last few minutes reminded me through all the disappointment why I love this team. We never gave up."

The season was not just defined by their wins and losses on the rugby pitch, however, as the team also came together for volunteer work in the Middlebury community. Kevin Ntoni '24 hopes to expand this aspect of the team's culture.

"I would like to see more involvement in community affairs as a team," Ntoni said. "We already volunteer at the Charter House Coalition, but I think we can do more for the Middlebury community."

The season also sparked a newfound relationship with the women's rugby team. The men's team held a cookout during the women's game against Colby and frequently showed up to support the women's team during their home games. The two teams hope to create a real and lasting friendship over their shared sport.

For next season, the Panthers hope to bring together a young, passionate core to build another successful team. Having shown flashes of brilliance this season, the team is full of optimism as they look to make a push for the national tournament, which they last won back in 2009.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER: GRACE HARLAN '22.5, FIELD HOCKEY

Courtesy of Kendra Walker
Grace Harlan '22.5 makes a save for the Panthers

By CAPTAIN RUDOLPH
Staff Writer

Welcome to another week of Captain's Corner, where I sit down with a captain of a Middlebury College athletics team to talk Captain to captain about the role, the team and their life at Middlebury. This week I got a chance to speak with Grace Harlan '22.5 about the team's NESCAC Championship win and plans for the NCAA tournament. Harlan has helped the Panthers outscore their opponents 91 to 12 this season with nine team shutouts along the way. She enters the NCAA tournament poised to compete for what would be her fourth championship title.

Captain Rudolph: What's the feeling of being part of Middlebury's 5th straight NESCAC Championship win in field hockey?

Grace Harlan: Definitely as a senior, it's a really special feeling. The win reminds me of all the people I've played with in the past. Our team changes every year, in terms of the individuals, but it's always the same amazing feeling and the same goal each year. It's crazy just being part of four out of the five. Thinking back to the 2017 team, that was the first to start the streak and having some of those seniors who I had never played with reach out yesterday when we won was a really special thing too.

CR: When did you decide you wanted to play the goalkeeper position?

GH: I was in 7th grade, and that was the first year we could play field hockey in my town. My mom had always coached, and my older sister played, so that was when my mom suggested that maybe I should be a goalie. I don't really know why she thought of it, but when she talked a bit more about the position, I realized that I wouldn't have to run, and I could tell people what to do. It was the perfect position for me. So, I never even started field play. I just decided to be a goalie, and I got to try on a high-schooler's pads, and I thought it was pretty fun, [so I] decided to stick with it.

CR: How do you fill your captain role from the perspective of a goalie?

GH: I feel like being a goalie has prepared me well to be a captain. Even just in the sense of being the furthest back on the field, I see a lot more. So, my role has always been to shout out what I see, whether it's where the defense can find a pass or who needs to be marked or other things like that. Since my sophomore year, which was the first year I started games, the position made me step out of my shell a lot earlier than I think I would have because, suddenly, I was a sophomore directing the actions of the seniors in front of me. In that sense, being a goalie made me a lot more confident in terms of what I'm saying to the team and how the team is looking at me because I think there's a lot of trust in what I'm saying about the game.

CR: Part of your dominance comes from the support of a stout back line, consistent scoring, and an amazing coach. What does Coach DeLorenzo do to create such a winning spirit in the team?

GH: I mean she's already been inducted into the [National Field Hockey Coaches Association] Hall of Fame, and she's still coaching, which I'm pretty sure is unheard of. I think it's a combination of things. The way she equally prioritizes culture with what we're actually doing on the field is so crucial. I think she clearly knows how to have success on the field in a tactical sense, but I don't think it would feel as good having the success that we do if she didn't also really instill the culture. The biggest thing she always says is to get to know your teammates but also to let yourself be known. I think it actually does make a big difference in the idea that you have to give a lot of yourself and be open to sharing if you want people to share with you. And we also always say we're fun but serious. I feel like we don't take ourselves very seriously, but we take what we do seriously.

CR: What has been the most defining win during your career at Middlebury? Why?

GH: There have definitely been a few, but I would honestly say the 2021 NESCAC Championship game against Bowdoin. We went down 3–0 at home and ended up winning 4–3 in regular time. I had never let in three goals in my career, and I remember the game feeling so crazy. After that game, I wondered how we could lose when we were able to battle this kind of adversity. So, I think that was a moment where I realized we have something very special going on here with this team.

CR: What do you have planned for after graduation?

GH: I definitely know that because I didn't get to go abroad due to Covid-19, traveling is the thing that I want to do most after I graduate. I took Arabic here all four years, so I would love to be able to try to go somewhere and actually use it because my grammar is good, but my pronunciation is terrible. That's my biggest priority right now.

CR: What does the NCAA tournament mindset look like?

GH: One of the biggest things that I'm most grateful to Coach DeLorenzo for always emphasizing is the necessity to only think about the next game. So, right now, we are not thinking about if we win Saturday, who we will play on Sunday. Really, It's just the question of what Saturday looks like and how can we be at our best to play whichever team that will be. I think the one-game-at-a-time mentality has been part of the reason we've been so successful because then we can just concentrate all of our efforts on what's in front of us. We don't get freaked out thinking about the repercussions of a loss. Instead, we are just focusing on a moment and trying to win that game.

Editor's Note: This interview has been lightly edited for brevity and clarity.

FIELD HOCKEY WINS FIFTH CONSECUTIVE NESCAC TITLE

Courtesy of Will Costello

The Panthers celebrate a goal in the NESCAC championship game against Tufts.

By **CHARLES CROUNSE**
Senior Sports Editor

Dynasty. In the world of sport, this word immediately conjures images of Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls or Larry Bird's Boston Celtics. In Middlebury, the word cannot be said without thinking immediately of the field hockey team.

This past Sunday, Nov. 6, the team won its league-leading ninth NESCAC title. The win also marked the fifth straight year that the Panthers have won, making them the first team in the conference to do so. None of the current members of the team have even played a season of collegiate field hockey without winning the NESCAC title.

The Panthers started their season in typically dominant fashion, recording big wins on the road against Castleton and divisional rivals Amherst. The team continued to brush aside opponents, outsourcing their opponents 55–4 over the first ten games of the season. The team brought their win streak home to the newly resurfaced Kohn Field, picking up two more wins to extend their historic unbeaten streak to 42 games. Then, the unthinkable happened.

In front of a large crowd of home fans coming out for the team's Senior Day, the Panthers were left stunned by Trinity, who narrowly escaped with a 2–1 win. The loss was a major upset, and one that raised questions about the team's dominance. The Panthers responded in the perfect way.

They bounced back with a dominant display against the highly ranked Tufts, beating them 4–0 before cruising past Williams in a 4–1 win. Once the playoffs began, the title was almost never in doubt, as Middlebury soared through the quarterfinals and semifinals to set up a rematch against Tufts. With goals from Katie George '24 and Audrey Lazar '23.5 firing them to a 2–0 victory, the Panthers lifted their fifth NESCAC plaque at the final whistle.

Midfielder Caroline Haggerty '24.5 credited the win to an excellent team dynamic, thanks, in no small part, to excellent leadership from both the team captains and Coach Katherine DeLorenzo. "A lot of our success comes from the joy that we have playing with each other," Haggerty said. "There's a lot of shared love, and we all trust each other to do what we need to do and get the job done."

Speaking on the midseason defeat to Trinity, Haggerty claims the loss actually helped the team move forward as they prepared for their annual playoff push. "For everyone in my grade and younger, we had never lost a game in our college career, so in many ways it was what we needed to improve our game," she said. "It was instrumental in helping us fix some things we needed to fix, so we made some changes after the game, and I think we're better for it."

The team now has its sights set firmly on the NCAA tournament, as they look to claim their fifth consecutive title, a feat no team in the division has ever achieved before. Haggerty is excited for the opportunity to set yet another record but emphasizes that winning is not the team's primary target. "Fans may focus on titles, but as a team, we want to play the best field hockey we can play," she said. "[Coach DeLorenzo] always says that we can push Division III field hockey to be better, so we want to keep pushing that level, and then we'll see what we can accomplish."

The Panthers return to action on Saturday, Nov. 12, against the winner of MIT vs. SUNY Cortland at Kohn Field.